



Diocese of Chichester

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Inspection Report

Name of school: Singleton CE Primary School

Address: Charlton Road
Singleton
PO18 0HP

Name of inspector: Robina Richter

NS inspector's number: 477

Date of inspection: 10 July 2008

The inspection of denominational education and collective worship in the school was carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Information about the school

Type of school:	Primary
Unique reference number:	125993
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Number on roll:	50
Age range of pupils:	4-11
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
LEA:	West Sussex
Name of chair of governors:	M A Scott
Name of headteacher:	Marion Barker
Date of previous inspection:	January 2005

Description of the school

Singleton school site is attractive and commands beautiful views of the South Downs. The number of pupils on roll is increasing. Less than half the pupils live locally. The rest live in local villages and towns and rely on cars to transport them to school. The parents have mostly chosen Singleton School because of the small classes and for family reasons.

The school has gained Intermediate Level International Award (2007), National Healthy Schools Award (2007) and Active Mark (2007).

Key for inspection grades

1	Outstanding
2	Good
3	Satisfactory
4	Inadequate

Summary judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Singleton as a Church of England school is outstanding. The school makes excellent provision for its learners which is underpinned by a strong Christian ethos. The pupils grow in self esteem and confidence enabling them to fulfil their full potential. The school embraces children of all faiths, cultures and special needs. Collective worship is a vital and integral part of school life. The pupils' participation in worship is outstanding and its relevance to them is shown by their desire to be involved. The needs of the community are brought to the worship. Opportunities for reflection are impressively made by all in the school community in particular through prayer, arts, healthy life styles and the natural world. The headteacher, with her staff, provides excellent leadership. She is ably backed by the governors. Many members of the community share their talents and provide strong leadership.

Established strengths

- The excellent opportunities for prayer and reflection in collective worship and at other times of the day
- The participation of the whole school community in the self evaluation of the school as a church school
- The way in which worship is integral to the spiritual life of the school

Focus for development

- Make arrangements to involve parents and the playschool more fully in school worship
- Build on the success of whole school involvement in the self-evaluation process to develop a more formal and systematic way to monitor RE and worship

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all its learners?

The school, through its distinctive Christian character is outstanding at meeting the needs of all its learners. The school is to be commended on the inclusive arrangements of pupils with special needs. All learners flourish and fulfil their potential. The pupils' academic achievement is very high in relation to their prior attainment and social background.

The mission statement, aims of the school and many policies give prominence to the very strong Christian values of the school. The Christian character of the school has a significant impact on the curriculum and the daily learning. For example, stimulated by the special Diocesan resources for Holy Week this year, the children designed a large cross and adorned it with Christian symbols. It provides an inspiring focal point for worship and activities in the hall. Key Stage 1 pupils were observed naming and explaining a wide range of these symbols.

There are excellent relationships between all members of the school community. Parents are very clear about the Christian ethos of the school. A parent praised the school, saying 'pupils are treated with great respect by the staff, consequently the pupils treat each other respectfully'. The uniqueness and well being of each individual is at the heart of all the school's life. The pupils express their views and effect improvements such as the improved stewardship and responsibility for their playground equipment, the boat and the superb environment. Spiritual and cultural awareness is developed very effectively through opportunities for excellent reflection in acts of collective worship, class discussions, RE Curriculum and the arts.

Grade: 1

What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding. The planning is excellent, reflecting the Anglican tradition and providing clear rationale. There is a good foundation of informal monitoring and evaluation. The school has recognised the need to develop this further in a more systematic manner. Worship is integral and vital to the community life involving all staff, pupils, parents, rector, governors, visiting speakers, drama groups and singers. It is highly sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of those of other faiths and of none.

There is a very interesting worship display board. The children monitor the worship and are extremely keen to prepare and join in worship activities such as reading, singing and drama. The staff and pupils were delighted to share the joy of their recent 'Children's Week' when the pupils led worship to a very high standard.

The reflective aspects of worship were outstanding. This has improved since the last inspection partly due the change of worship time from before to after the playtime break. Pupils offered very thoughtful insights on the theme of the day about 'God looking at what we are like on the inside and not on the outside' linked to the Bible story of Samuel meeting David for the first time. Prayer provided time for personal reflection. The needs of the community were also prayed for.

The school improvement plan reflects the importance of worship in the life of the school. Future plans include involving parents and the playschool in the worship and setting aside time to focus on prayer, including the writing of a school prayer.

Grade: 1

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a Church school?

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding. The headteacher and staff provide exceptionally effective leadership which is supported by the governors. The school's Christian purpose and vision is clearly communicated to all in the community through school newsletters, contribution to the local magazine 'Valley Diary', and is evident in practice in all aspects of the school life. Pupils' opinions are welcomed and regularly influence decisions taken in the school.

The school enjoys a high quality partnership with the church and village community. A foundation governor provides a report about the school to each Parochial Church Council meeting. Recently the school shared in the celebrations and blessing of the newly refurbished lych gate. The school has regular art displays and concerts in the church. The governors and parents offer outstanding practical support, for example hearing readers, teaching recorder, cycling proficiency and garden work. Children working in the poly-tunnel shared with glee their freshly picked mange tout with full explanations of how they had been planted, nurtured and grown with God's help. They were inquisitive and full of praise for their volunteer helpers who drew them in to this understanding of the beauty of God's world around us.

The staff, governors and pupils have given input to the school improvement plan and the diocesan self-evaluation tool kit. Their contributions are highly valued and influence the actions planned and taken by the school. An appropriate range of future developments have been identified including a more formal and systematic way for governors to monitor RE and worship.

Grade: 1

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship	Yes
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Diocese of Chichester

Judgement Recording Form

Name of school:	Singleton CE Primary
Date of inspection:	10 July 2008
NS Inspector's number:	477
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Number on roll:	49
Type of school:	Primary

Rating 1-4

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all its learners?	1
What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?	1
How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a Church school?	1
The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship	Yes