



Diocese of Chichester

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Inspection Report

Name of school: Forest Row CE Primary School

Address: School Lane
Hartfield Road
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5DZ

Name of inspector: Olivia Izzard

NS inspector's number: 389

Date of inspection: 23 May 2007

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:	114504
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Number on roll:	243
Age range of pupils:	4-11
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
LEA:	East Sussex
Name of chair of governors:	Ken Marke
Name of headteacher:	Ian Allison
Date of previous inspection:	April/May 2002

Description of the school

Forest Row CE Primary School is situated in the village of Forest Row, which is located in the north west corner of the Wealden District of East Sussex. There has been a Church of England school in Forest Row since the mid-nineteenth century and a separate infant school was built on the current site in the 1970. In 1992 a junior department was added to the Infant School. Now this village Church school occupies a quiet secluded location, bordered by playing fields and trees. A Steiner school, a Further Education college, a scientologist school and a minor public school are also situated in the village or nearby and contribute some pupils to the school. The school's catchment area, from which the vast majority of the pupils are drawn, is mainly privately owned accommodation.

Key for inspection grades

1	Outstanding
2	Good
3	Satisfactory
4	Inadequate

Summary judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Forest Row as a Church of England school are good. It has several outstanding features. Committed to the development of all the children, the school promotes a culture of continual improvement of the quality of experience it promotes for its pupils. Learners from all groups feel valued and special. Although its strong Christian beliefs are not explicitly expressed in the written mission statement and policies these beliefs are clearly evident in all aspects of the life and work of the school. Worship occupies an important place in the life of the school and evokes a positive response from those attending. The good leadership of the headteacher, well supported by governors, staff and parents contributes significantly to the life of the school. The close liaison between the local church and village communities makes a major contribution to the success of Forest Row as a Church school.

Established strengths

- the very good relationships between all members of the school community which actively promote the Christian ethos
- the excellent liaison between the school, village and local church staff which enriches the life and work of those communities
- the excellent quality of the environment and display which enhance the school ethos

Focus for development

- make greater use of assigned display areas to promote the spiritual and cultural development of the pupils
- introduce further detail in planning for, and a formalised system of monitoring and evaluation of, acts of Collective Worship
- make explicit links with the Christian character of the school in the wording of the mission statement, school aims, school uniform logo, policies and plans

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 good at meeting the needs of all its learners. The large majority of pupils feel valued and special, as discussion with them demonstrate. They have good levels of self-esteem and independence while demonstrating care for others. For example, the older children take responsibility for the younger ones during play times when older pupils are responsible for organising play activities. The children are quiet, respectful and caring with both members of the school community and visitors. The excellent quality of relationships are soundly based the school's ethic of 'a caring attitude towards people and the world in which we live'.

The Christian ethos of the school supports the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of all learners well. Spiritual development is developed through some opportunities for reflection in acts of worship and work in art and poetry. Moral development is encouraged well through class discussion, appropriate themes in acts of worship, adherence to school rules, 'the school council', excellent care of the school environment and very good liaison with village organisations, including the Parish Council. Opportunities for social development are very good. A system of recently implemented 'play zones' during lunch break is proving very successful and makes a major contribution to the children's personal and social development. The wide variety of extra-curricular clubs also enhances the pupils' social development well. Opportunities for cultural development are good although they could be improved through more consistent use of display areas to promote this aspect of the curriculum.

Grade: 2

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

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good. Worship occupies a place of central importance in the life of the school and underpins its Christian character. Discussion with learners demonstrates their understanding of the importance of worship although there is currently no formalised system in place to evaluate and monitor them more effectively. The themes for the acts of worship are well planned but need further detail, particularly in identifying foci for reflection. Close liaison takes place between the main leaders in planning appropriate themes and the content of the worship. The form of worship encourages willing participation and a positive response from those present. A good variety of strategies, involving pupil participation, are used in the delivery of the acts of worship. The use of drama is particularly popular with the participants. Learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is enhanced by Collective Worship. Older pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for the organisation of aspects of the worship including the arrangement of furniture and operating the musical equipment at the beginning and end of each service.

The learners are able to talk about the key Christian festivals and the church year. The worship is distinctively Christian and supports the school's Anglican heritage and trust deed. The school banner and a display for acts of worship, including a candle, provide a suitable focal point. There are productive links with the local parish church and where possible this church is used for services and to enhance the pupils understanding of worship. At the same time the school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of those of other faiths and of none by ensuring that acts of worship provide for all the pupils' spiritual and moral development. Consequently there are no withdrawals from Collective Worship.

Grade: 2

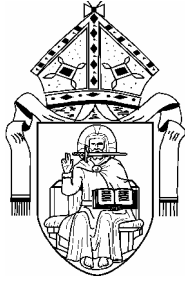
How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a Church school?

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a Church school is good. A large majority of the stakeholders speak confidently and accurately about the schools Christian vision. The headteacher articulates a Christian vision for the school well. The school prospectus contains a description of the history and role of the school as a Church of England one and the role of the local church in the celebration of major Christian festivals including Harvest and Easter. The vast majority of members of staff feel confident and comfortable about their part in sharing the school's ongoing vision. The school ensures that all stakeholders contribute to the school's improvement. Regular questionnaires are distributed to parents and pupils, which are analysed and acted upon.

There is regular meaningful involvement in the school by other faith groups and other Christian denominations, including regular e-mail contact with the Muslim community in Brighton and very close liaison with the local Baptist church and its staff. A representative from the school regularly attends Diocesan deanery briefings in the Uckfield area and the school subscribes to the Diocesan service level agreement. Relationships between all members of the school community including the local playgroup, the local schools and the local churches are excellent. Parents feel that the school has a special quality that enables learners of all backgrounds to flourish as individuals.

Grade: 2

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship	yes
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Judgement Recording Form

Name of school:	Forest Row CE Primary School
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Status:	Voluntary Controlled
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Type of school:	Primary

Rating 1-4

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all its learners?	2
What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?	2
How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a Church school?	2
The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship	yes