



Name and address of school: Great Wilbraham C of E Primary School, Church Street, Great Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire CB1 5JQ

Type of school: Primary

Status: Voluntary Controlled

Diocese: Ely

LEA: Cambridgeshire

Dates of inspection: 22nd and 24th May 2006

Date of last inspection: 18th and 19th January 2001

School's Unique reference number: 110789

Name of Head teacher: Mrs Ann Jordan

Inspector's name and NS number: Mr PWC Adams (205)

Context:

Great Wilbraham is a small rural Primary School serving three villages to the east of Cambridge. There are 105 pupils on roll in four classes and the school is often over-subscribed. Some parents from outside the catchment area choose the school because of its Christian foundation and ethos. The proportion of children with special needs is below average and there are very few from ethnic groups. The school is housed in a modern building on the edge of the village and close to the parish church. The Head teacher and Governors have carried out a thorough review of the school, using the Diocesan church school self-evaluation materials. This has given a perceptive and accurate picture of the school.

Summary Judgement:

Great Wilbraham is an outstanding Church of England Primary School. There is a clear Christian ethos that gives a distinctive and effective character to relationships, motivation and schoolwork. The high quality of care provides an environment of nurture for all learners.

The self-evaluation process is secure and effective.

Established strengths:

- The very supportive relationship between staff, learners and other stakeholders is outstanding.
- The Christian ethos underpins the excellent care and provision for the development of the 'whole child'.
- Caring and well-focused leadership results in very high standards in schoolwork and attainment and provides clear direction and motivation for the school community.
- Very positive behaviour management policy and systems.

Focus for development

The school has identified the following areas for development with which the inspector concurs:

- Further develop the 'quiet' play area in the playground
- Provide further training for teaching staff on leading collective worship.

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

The school makes outstanding provision to meet the needs of all its learners.

The Christian ethos underpins and enables the school to provide a warm and caring atmosphere. Relationships in the school are mutually supportive, with the adults providing excellent role models for the learners. Support for individual pupils is excellent, the school is inclusive and provides a secure and nurturing environment for all learners to develop. The Bishop's Visitor wrote 'Special Needs children are well cared for and other children gain much benefit from helping them.' The school provides strong incentives to encourage positive behaviour – this is celebrated in weekly 'merit assemblies.' Learners contribute in many ways to the life of the school and successfully take on a variety of responsibilities. These include: School council, Eco council and Play leaders. The school supports various charity events, including fundraising for a village in Malawi through the SOS scheme, and for the local church building. Results from questionnaires show that the school is highly regarded in the local community. Parents are very supportive; they find the school welcoming, it provides good communication and any problems are dealt with in a quick, effective and sensitive way. The school is committed to environmental issues, having the prestigious ECO award and flag – a nest box on the school is fitted with a camera allowing the children to monitor a blue tit's nest.

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

The daily acts of Collective Worship are outstanding and provide an effective and inspirational focus for all learners.

Acts of worship are exceptionally well planned and evaluated. All members of the teaching staff lead worship, the learners enjoy these occasions, are pleased to contribute and can recount memorable acts of worship. The theme and content of worship helps the children to focus on Christian values, which are evident in the general behaviour through the school. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian and follows the Anglican tradition in faith and practice. A variety of worship styles are used. Visitors are regularly invited to lead, including the local vicar who has a close relationship with the school, providing strong pastoral support and encouragement. Prayer plays an important part of everyday school life; the learners say grace and write their own prayers for Collective Worship. They respond well to moments of quiet reflection. The Lord's Prayer has recently been used as a theme in Collective Worship and is the focus of a display in the hall. The school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of those of other faiths and the acts of worship provide for the spiritual and moral development of all learners.

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

The leadership and management of the school, as a church school are judged to be outstanding.

The Head teacher provides exceptional leadership and gives a clear vision for the direction of the school. The staff are very positive about the leadership and feel valued and supported. There is a high level of motivation and identification with the aims. This is illustrated by the excellent collaborative team spirit of those who work at the school. There is also an effective partnership that has been built with the local church community. The Governors play an informed and active part in school development. They are committed to the school and have willingly undertaken training for their roles. The Governors are supportive of the school leadership and the majority actively promote the Christian ethos.