



Name and address of school: Stilton C of E (VC) Primary School, Church Street, Stilton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. PE7 3RF

Type of school: Primary

Status: Voluntary Controlled

Diocese: Ely

LEA: Cambridgeshire

Dates of inspection: 27th and 28th March 2006

Date of last inspection: 8th and 10th December 2003

School's Unique reference number: 110821

Name of Headteacher: Miss Annette Baughan

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

Context:

Stilton is a village that is bypassed by the A1 motorway some five miles south of Peterborough. The primary school, which is situated in the middle of the village, adjacent to the parish church, serves the local community and outlying areas. There are currently 206 pupils on the school roll, including a few children from outside the catchment area. The school has established excellent links with the village community, including the local church. Pupils come from a range of backgrounds, however the majority are White British in origin. The Headteacher who has been in post for two terms, has made an accurate assessment of the schools' needs and following extensive consultation is making significant improvements.

Summary Judgement:

Stilton C of E (C) Primary School is a good Church of England school with a distinctive and effective ethos, centred on Christian values and a strong sense of community. The school has a secure self-evaluation process which has identified areas for improvement and gives a clear direction for future development.

Established strengths:

- Good relationships between staff, governors and parents. The school community works well together as an effective team, promoting Christian values.
- Pupil voice is well represented through the school council, which is pro-active in many areas of school development.
- Excellent relationship with the local church. Involvement of personnel from the church community in Collective Worship and pastoral support.
- Enthusiastic and well-focussed leadership that is having a positive effect on all aspects of school life and development.

Focus for development

- Continue to help children to take greater responsibility for their own behaviour and learning, in line with the high expectations set out in the new policy.
- Establish a system to monitor and evaluate the carefully planned acts of Collective Worship.
- Provide more opportunities for parents and the wider community to attend acts of Collective Worship.

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

The school takes great care in making good and effective provision to meet the needs of all its learners.

The learners appreciate the mutually supportive and inclusive atmosphere. This is underpinned by clearly stated Christian values and ethos. All staff provide excellent role models for the learners, exemplified through their relationships with each other. A Y5 child said: 'All our teachers are nice, kind and give good discipline; they all help you when you are stuck.' All learners feel valued and cared for; they contribute to the life of the school in many ways, including through an effective school council. The council has contributed to, and influenced recent whole school policies, including behaviour, 'golden rules' and healthy life style initiatives. The school celebrates its strong links with the local church with displays in the entrance hall. Parents appreciate the good communication from the school and support the overall aims, ethos and Christian values. One parent said 'I see it as a bonus!' The school is well regarded in the local community, the learners are involved in several village events, including singing to the 'over 60s', maypole dancing and cheese rolling. The school provides curriculum enrichment in a variety of ways including many clubs and activities held after school. Great care is taken to provide good experiences for learners during the lunch hour, with games equipment and supervised clubs available for all. Healthy eating is encouraged; lunches are cooked on the premises with the food sourced locally.

What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?

Collective Worship in the school is satisfactory and it makes an important contribution to the daily lives of the learners.

The school sees Collective Worship as an important element in the daily experience of the learners. It is well planned and organised and gives opportunities for them to participate and take leading roles. A good focus for worship is provided by the use of a tapestry of the 'Four Seasons' (presented by the church community), a candle is also used on occasions. The worship is Christian in content and is in line with Anglican faith and practice, reflecting the main events of the Christian year. A strong moral message is included – often in the form of a target for behaviour in a particular week. The learners appreciate Collective Worship and are pleased to participate with their own prayers and writing. They enjoy being together as a 'whole school', appreciate times for quiet reflection and enjoy the regular songs of praise assemblies. The input by the local incumbent is particularly valued. This is on a weekly basis and the theme and content is carefully planned well in advance. Prayer is an important element in the school, the learners have been taught the Lord's Prayer and a grace is said before meals.

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 is judged to be good and has the potential for further development

The recently appointed headteacher has quickly and accurately assessed the school's strengths and identified areas for improvement. Much has already been achieved since her appointment and she has demonstrated her commitment to the Christian values and ethos of the school. The governors support the school leadership and promote the ethos. There are plans for the governors and school staff to meet and re-write the school aims, to reflect more accurately the Christian values and commitment to a high standard of care. The staff feel valued and supported and are very positive about the leadership. There is an excellent collaborative team spirit at the school which has a positive effect on the learners.