

Report on the Denominational Inspection
carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 of

Wincle C E (Aided) Primary School
Wincle, Macclesfield, Cheshire
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Status Voluntary Aided
Diocese Chester
Local Authority Cheshire
Type of school Primary
Age range of pupils 4 – 11 years
Gender of pupils Mixed

Chair of governors Mr Ian Burns
Headteacher Mrs Sheila Loughlin

Inspection date 22nd November 2006
Date of previous inspection 4th & 5th July 2002

Inspector Graham H Nuttall
Inspector number NS456

Summary Judgement

Wincle C E Primary School is an outstanding church school where Christianity is at the heart of school life. The school embraces a caring, warm and welcoming community and relationships between all stakeholders are of a very high order. The headteacher, Clergy, Governors and Staff ensure that the school's Christian foundation is not only firmly established, but practically demonstrated in all aspects of school life.

School context

The school serves the small village of Wincle and is located in a picturesque rural setting within the Peak District National Park. It is considerably smaller than average, but has more than doubled in size since the last inspection due to its excellent reputation. Some parents travel considerable distances to bring their children to the school and almost all pupils are from White British families. The proportion of children entitled to free school meals and the number with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are well below average.

Established strengths

- The outstanding relationships throughout the whole school community, reflecting the Christian values which permeate all aspects of school life together with the exceptional quality of pastoral care and support provided by **all** staff.
- The outstanding behaviour of all pupils and the way they support and care for one another in both work and play.
- The clear vision and strong commitment of the Headteacher, Governors and staff in promoting a school ethos based upon sound Christian values.
- The exceptionally strong and mutually beneficial links between the school, the incumbent and the local church community

Focus for development

- Develop opportunities for in-service training, with the support of the Diocese, for all staff teaching Religious Education.

Wincle CE School is outstanding in meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character.

Wincle C E School is very highly regarded in the locality because of its exceptionally strong church and community links. Pupils, who are tremendously proud of their school say, "We enjoy school and learning here is fun." Parents feel that the school is "a happy school where teachers are prepared to go that extra mile, whilst a foundation governor remarked, "the Christian ethos is immersed in the whole of school life." Pupils' personal, social, moral and spiritual development is outstanding as a result of extremely well planned provision within the school. Children are very polite and their behaviour is excellent. A purposeful and calm atmosphere provides a positive learning environment and the school demonstrates a strong commitment towards inclusion. Parents are encouraged as partners within the learning process and as a result the school is very well supported. All adults within the school provide exceptional levels of Christian care, support and guidance and as a result pupils receive a very firm foundation upon which to build their future lives and realise their full potential.

Collective worship has an outstanding effect on the school community.

Worship is very important in the life of the school and central to its Christian witness. Children say they look forward to worship and enjoy taking part. Collective worship has an outstanding positive impact upon pupils' spiritual development and also upon their behaviour and manners, because the themes help them to focus upon Christian values and attitudes. During the inspection the vicar effectively illustrated a traditional Russian folktale to explore the question "Where do we find God?" Skilful open ended questioning techniques ensured that all pupils were positively engaged and responded both thoughtfully and sensitively within the worship. Church services and family assemblies are very well supported by parents and governors which enhance pupils' perception of the relevance of Christianity within family life. Worship is very well planned with themes that link with the Christian year and all pupils take an active part in church services which celebrate major festivals.

The effectiveness of religious education is outstanding

RE is recognised as a high priority within the life of the school and is taught with both fervour and academic rigour. The subject is very well resourced and the enthusiastic and well-motivated co-ordinator, who is the headteacher, gives dynamism and enthusiasm within the subject. Pupils have an excellent understanding of Christianity together with a good knowledge of two additional world faiths because of highly effective teaching. Pupils are keen to offer their opinions and also listen to the opinions of others; whilst their behaviour and attitudes towards learning within lessons is exemplary. During the inspection older pupils were challenged to articulate and write about their own ideas concerning their understanding of "the Beatitudes" and their interpretations of this particular aspect of the teachings of Jesus within their own lives and experience. Pupils were encouraged to be "peacemakers" and act out specific conflict situations which resulted in some thought provoking discussion and debate. The use of a variety of teaching methods interspersed with strong emphasis upon the use of drama makes religious education "come alive". The school is aware that in-service training within RE could be extended and there are opportunities for governors to consider including this aspect as an area for future development. The school undertakes an effective cyclical review of all curriculum areas and is aware of the proposed Chester Diocesan scheme of work for Religious Education.

Leadership and management of the school as a church school are outstanding

The Headteacher provides outstanding Christian leadership. The happy working atmosphere and welcoming environment reflects the Headteacher's "people friendly" approach. The school prospectus clearly points out that the all members of staff seek to provide the best possible Christian based education for all its pupils; and Winkle C E School fully achieves this aim. The Headteacher receives excellent support from all her staff and all adults are very much aware of the importance of maintaining and promoting the Christian ethos within the school. The school provides an extremely effective system of pastoral support, which is highly sensitive to the needs of individual pupils. The incumbent and foundation governors are very good at fulfilling their duties with regard to the management of the school and particularly so in respect of the school's Christian foundation and this is to be commended. The school is well resourced and thereby offers a vibrant environment within which to work and play. Parents recognise that the school has a distinctive Christian quality and they are very happy to support this, recognising the positive effect it has upon their children, their personal development and upon their sense of identity and high levels of self worth. The school has successfully addressed all aspects raised within the previous denominational inspection.