



**Greenfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Lower School
Pulloxhill Road, Greenfield, Bedford MK45 5ES**

Diocese of St Albans

LEA:	Bedfordshire
SIAS Inspection:	7 & 9 June 2006
Previous S23 Inspection:	2000
URN:	109600
Headteacher:	Mrs A McCullion
SIAS Inspector:	Mr R Essery

Context

Greenfield Voluntary Controlled School is a lower school with five teaching groups for 116 pupils from 4 to 9 years old. Most pupils are of white British heritage. The school serves an above average socio-economic area, which includes the village of Greenfield and the surrounding district. The school is part of a federation of two schools with one Headteacher.

Summary Judgement

Greenfield Voluntary Controlled School is an outstanding school. Christian values underpin all aspects of the school. There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere based on mutual respect where all members of the school community are valued. Pupils feel secure and enjoy attending the school.

Established strengths

- Strong links with the parish church and vicar.
- Commitment to develop the 'whole child' and to encourage all to do their best.
- Clear values programme, which underpins the school's Christian ethos.
- Strong partnership between all members of the school community: pupils, staff, governors, parents and the wider community.

Focus for development

- Improve the profile of Collective Worship by including it in the school brochure; setting an allocated budget and keeping an annual record of monitoring and evaluation
- Develop a policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education, which draws on the school's excellent practice and the successful Values Education programme.
- Prepare a booklet for parents about values education

The School through its distinctive Christian character meets the needs of all learners in an outstanding way

Grade: 1

The school makes excellent provision to meet the needs of all learners. The values education programme underpins all aspects of the school and is clearly linked to the school's Christian ethos. Pupils enjoy coming to school and are keen to learn. They feel happy and safe. The school is inclusive and all members of the school community are valued. A calm, purposeful and positive Christian atmosphere is evident throughout the school. Staff and governors are committed to providing a broadly-based curriculum and a high quality education to develop the 'whole child'. Many extra curricular activities are available including ICT and Maths clubs and a school journey to France. There is an emphasis on working as a team, sharing responsibility and caring for each other and the environment. The school council is actively involved in the life of the school and it is further developing the buddy system. Many charities are supported including the NSPCC and Christian Aid. The school supports a child in Myanmar. Success and effort are celebrated and children value their certificates and 'leaf', which is placed on the 'tree' in the hall. There is an excellent partnership between all stakeholders. Parents fully support the school and a thriving PTA raises funds for resources including ICT equipment, and organises social events. Governors carry out their responsibilities diligently and have an effective link governor programme. Excellent use is made of the 1960s building, which is well maintained and resourced to create a stimulating learning environment. Displays are of a high quality and these include work related to Christianity, prayers and values. The school's mission statement, a cross and work linked to the Commandments are seen in the entrance hall. The vicar leads an assembly each week and is fully involved with the school. Children take part in church services, use the church as a resource for learning and attend celebrations at the Cathedral. Links with the diocese are good. The school has been awarded 'Investors in People', 'Healthy Schools' and the 'Gold Arts Mark' and is working towards the Eco Award. An information booklet for parents about the values education programme is to be prepared and the school's brochure will be updated.

The impact of collective worship on the school is outstanding

Grade: 1

Worship forms an integral part of school life and is a key aspect to its Christian witness. Daily worship is inclusive, well planned and carefully presented using various formats. Themes are generally related to the value being considered, such as tolerance, or the church calendar such as Ascension, Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Various prayers are used including some written by children and the Lord's Prayer. Children enter quietly and leave the school hall to music. They are involved in many ways and complete the record sheets, prepare the hall, organise the music, act stories and discuss the theme. Singing is enjoyed and a CD is generally used. Two acts of very good worship were observed. Children were attentive, understood the message and had opportunities to reflect. Grace is said before lunch. The vicar leads an act of worship each week and St John the Baptist Church is used for Easter and Christmas celebrations. Class assemblies often take place each term. Staff join the assemblies and the 'team' atmosphere is evident. Worship appears in the strategic plan. A detailed action plan with an allocated budget and clear monitoring and evaluation procedures to draw together the arrangements and highlight future plans would be useful. Consideration should be given to updating the worship policy and guidelines. Worship should be included in the brochure to underpin its importance to the school's ethos and to inform parents of their right to withdraw children from worship. A priority should be to draw together the school's excellent practice in a policy and guidelines for Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Education.

The leadership and management of the school is outstanding

Grade: 1

The Headteacher and senior management of the school make a significant contribution to the success of the school as a church school. They have a good understanding of the school and its community and demonstrate clear vision and high expectations based on the values programme, which underpins each aspect of the school. The quality of relationships between all stakeholders is good. The staff make a strong and effective team. The school has an excellent partnership with the parish church and its vicar and good links with the diocese of St Albans. Liaison between the school and the local schools is good and the values programme has been shared with schools in the LEA and the diocese. Governors are well informed and supportive. They have established an effective committee structure and have successfully developed the role of the link governor. Excellent use is made of the buildings and grounds to enhance learning. Careful self-evaluation is carried out and the school is well placed to develop further. Future parent questionnaires will include aspects about the church status of the school. Parents feel fully involved in the life and work of the school.