



Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

**Wareside Church of England Primary School
Reeves Green, Ware SG12 7QR**



Diocese of St Albans

LA: Hertfordshire
SIAS Inspection: 28th September 2010
Previous S48 Inspection: November 2006
URN: 117412
Headteacher: Elaine Batten
SIAS Inspector Name: Lyn Field
SIAS Inspector No: NS 151

School Context

This is a small rural school serving Wareside and the surrounding area. The vast majority of pupils are White British and the proportion known to be eligible for free school meals is well below average. A far higher proportion of pupils have special educational needs or disabilities.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wareside as a Church of England school are good.

Improvements since the last inspection have created a deeper understanding and clarity of purpose as a church school. The momentum gained has the support of the whole community. Pupils have a strong sense of right and wrong and show compassion to others. They confidently explain how these values are rooted in Christian teaching.

Established strengths

- Clear direction given by the headteacher to the school as a church school
- Pupils' ability to relate Christian values to their own lives
- The support of parents for the Christian values the school promotes
- The impact of the vicar's role and services in church on the whole community

Focus for development

To maintain current progress as a church school by

- gathering detailed feedback from pupils and parents
- ensuring that new systems for evaluating the Christian ethos are embedded in practice
- using the outcomes of monitoring to inform development plans

To incorporate religious education into a creative curriculum whilst ensuring that teaching maintains a clear focus on the subject's key skills.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners.

Pupils develop positive attitudes and skills for learning as a direct result of the way religious and spiritual issues are woven into the curriculum. Pupils understand the core values of the school and articulate what makes them distinctively Christian. This is clearly not something just learned as a list because children talk about their individual insights into the meaning of Bible stories. A typical example is that Jesus respected people for the way they valued others, not for the position they held. This is the impact of skilful questioning in RE lessons and pupils are learning basic skills in philosophical thinking. The school is planning a curriculum that draws closer links between subjects but is determined to maintain the specific skills required for religious understanding. As RE co-ordinator, the headteacher brings strong subject knowledge and enthusiasm to her role. Parents like the school's rounded approach and feel it prepares children for life in a multi-faith society. This is borne out by the mature and convincing case made by pupils for how RE lessons have built their confidence and knowledge to engage with people from all cultures.

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The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Collective worship touches all groups in the school community, although the means by which the school gathers feedback does not bring out the full depth of this impact. The headteacher and staff team share the leadership of worship and their active involvement on a daily basis provides vital role models. Pupils enjoy taking an active role in worship and sing enthusiastically. They also learn to value quietness because they are helped to draw meaning from stories and make use of this in prayer. Equal attention is given by leaders to posing questions as well as encouraging pupils to raise their own concerns about personal or global issues. The time allocated by the staff and the vicar to responding to these enhances pupils' spiritual and moral growth. It creates an inclusive atmosphere where pupils from all backgrounds feel their views and beliefs are taken seriously.

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SIAS Inspector Name: Lyn Field
SIAS Inspector No: NS 151

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- Pupils' ability to relate Christian values to their own lives
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Focus for development

To maintain current progress as a church school by

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