

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Wormley Church of England Voluntary Controlled School

Cozens Lane East
Broxbourne
Herts
EN10 6QA

Diocese: St Albans

Local authority:	Hertfordshire
Dates of inspection:	03 November 2011
Date of last inspection:	24 March 2009
School's unique reference number:	117400
Headteacher:	Mrs Christine Hall
Inspector's name and number:	Mrs Judith Ruff 528

School context

Wormley is a larger than average primary school. The school roll is 380 pupils. The majority of pupils are from White British heritage. There are 24 pupils attending from the local Traveller Site. There are 59 pupils on the SEN Code of Practice. The school has been refurbished to a high standard, both internally and externally, following the amalgamation of two schools at the time of the previous SIAS inspection.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wormley VC Primary as a Church of England school are good.

Good progress has been made on the foci for development following the 2009 inspection. The school places high importance on the acts of Collective Worship and the quality of RE delivered across the school. The strong Christian ethos is much valued by all stakeholders, including the feeder secondary headteachers, both of whom commented on the distinctive behaviour and conduct of the Wormley pupils on transfer to their schools.

Established strengths

- Strong, effective links with local clergy which clearly enhance the quality of Collective Worship in particular and make worship meaningful and real to the children
- Monitoring and evaluation processes for Collective Worship, which include contributions from staff, governors and pupils
- High quality school leadership team working in an effective partnership with talented and committed governors

Focus for development

- Formalise discussions about the distinctiveness of the school as a church school, involving all stakeholders, leading to the creation of a 'Mission Statement', which encapsulates this discussion
- Broaden the remit of the School Development Plan to include an annual action plan on developing the distinctiveness of the school as a church school and have progress monitored as a standing agenda item on Governing Body meetings
- Develop ways to involve pupils more in leading and organising worship

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

Wormley School is described by parents as a school 'at the heart of the community'. Although the school is relatively large, the strong Christian ethos which pervades the school is more akin to a small village school. All parents interviewed spoke highly of the inclusiveness of the school and how staff were friendly and welcoming. Parents were confident in the school to produce 'well rounded individuals' who understood the importance of the Christian faith, but also were learning to respect the beliefs from other faiths through their stimulating RE discussions with staff keenly interested in nurturing their spiritual and cultural development. Pupils interviewed were proud of their school and appreciated the stimulating surroundings and their part in decision making processes such as designing the external environment. Links overseas in Sierra Leone and Pakistan enlarge the children's understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural faith. Pupils clearly enjoy visitors' news from these countries. Values work within the school, together with the Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL), enhances the children's understanding of Christian values. Their questioning and enthusiastic approach towards Christianity and other religions is frequently followed through into home activities, where they either share their newfound knowledge with their family or trawl the internet looking for more information. Pupils clearly care for each other and various 'buddying' initiatives deepen these relationships further.

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

The act of Collective Worship observed during the inspection was outstanding. This was led by one of the local clergy. He skilfully led the children in thinking about ways in which we are different, but at the same time have a common humanity. This concept was demonstrated through three pupils sucking different coloured 'Smarties', which on inspection had changed to the same chocolate colour on the children's tongues. Pupils were fully engaged with this talk, which included some slides of a visit by the pastor to Sierra Leone. Pupils sang in a lively and enthusiastic way. A candle was lit for the time of prayer or reflection. Pupils' comments on the 'Tuesday Clergy Assemblies' were displayed on a board in the hall and included the following 'When the candle is lit I think that it is religious and respectful to God' and 'I like getting facts, because if I learn more I can tell my family'. Pupils interviewed had very positive attitudes towards Collective Worship. The Co-ordinator has worked extremely hard to prepare themes and suitable stories for the Key Stage acts of Collective Worship which take place weekly. A further improvement would be to arrange for some staff training on the ways of delivering Collective Worship in order to make it as interactive and stimulating as possible. Pupils should be given more opportunities to lead and organise worship. Their thoughtful and reflective comments on worship demonstrate that they would take this further responsibility very seriously. The monitoring and evaluation processes for Collective Worship have really improved and are now a strength of the school's work in this area. The Co-ordinator should now produce a summary report from these evaluations to the Governing Body, so that current strengths and areas for development are made known. The local churches are used well for special services and a popular weekly 'First Friday' club operates at the school, with further holiday club opportunities offered through the churches.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good.

The school benefits considerably from high quality leadership provided by the headteacher, her staff and the members of the Governing Body. They take the school's church foundation very seriously and value the additional links and challenges that this status brings. Between them there is a huge potential for further improvement through the focused deployment of discussions and mentoring of key personnel into roles such as Link Governor for Collective Worship and RE. There is a need for a more formalised discussion on the distinctiveness of the school as a church school, leading to the creation of a school 'Mission Statement'. The school's 'Development Plan' requires broadening out to incorporate an annual plan on how to develop the church school distinctiveness, which is regularly monitored by the governors and includes all stakeholders in the evaluation process.