



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report



### Wormley Primary School (Voluntary Controlled) Diocese of St Albans

<b>LEA:</b>	Hertfordshire
<b>SIAS Inspection:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2006
<b>Previous S23 Inspection:</b>	January 2000
<b>URN:</b>	117400
<b>Headteacher:</b>	Mrs S Cranston
<b>SIAS Inspector:</b>	Revd V G Cato

#### School context

Wormley is a larger than average VC primary school enjoying strong links with supportive local churches. Most pupils come from white British families with a few from minority ethnic heritages. A generally mobile population and Traveller children also have an effect on the school. The school has an above average number of children with special needs, including a significant number with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. A few are autistic and a small number are at the early stages of learning English. Children start school with standards lower than average. There are eleven classes and, apart from the Nursery and the youngest two classes, pupils are in mixed age classes. The school is well kept inside and outside and provides a pleasant and stimulating environment

#### Summary Judgement

Wormley is a good Church school where all feel valued and cared for in a supportive environment built upon implicit Christian values, which are reinforced by the support of local clergy. Its strong links with the Parish Church, and the "Friday Club" run by the churches in the school, strengthen its distinctiveness as a Church school. Christian parents, including teachers and clergy, are happy to send their children to Wormley School.

#### Established strengths

- The relationship with the local churches and the enthusiastic involvement of the clergy.
- The effective pastoral system and affirming relationships within the whole school community, and good relationships with the wider community
- Supportive and involved Governors and a strong partnership with parents.
- The emphasis on learning *through* RE and worship as well as learning *about* faith and religion

#### Focus for development

- Review the Worship Policy and put in place a system of monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship, SMT and Governor training specific to Church School ethos and management, in particular with regard to using the SEF Toolkit as a means for school improvement.
- Increase the confidence of the school as a good Church School by drawing attention to its Church foundation in its mission statement, policies, recruitment brochures and stationery

**The school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners well. (Grade: 2)**

Wormley school provides a safe and secure environment for all its learners, whatever their ability or background. Achievements are celebrated through creative displays or in the Friday assembly. There is a strong family atmosphere in the school and it is seen by parents, staff and pupils as a caring school. Excellent pastoral care is evident: examples were given by a member of staff who felt well supported through a difficult time, pupils who feel they can go to a teacher if they have problems, and parents, one of whom felt the school had assisted in her personal development as well as supporting her children. Children of other faiths and cultures are respected and their experiences and practices discussed and valued. SMSC development is good and effective behavioural policies are in place. The Children's Governor sits on the School Council which has been active in a number of initiatives in the school. The school operates a "Buddy Bench" in the playground, and "worry boxes" in the classrooms. The children feel these generally work well. The school environment is bright, clean and well cared for. Around the school well thought out displays relating to RE or seasonal topics are evident and there is a colourful cross in the entrance lobby. Both pupils and parents felt being at a Church School made a positive difference. The strong links with the parish church and the local clergy were appreciated and the children liked the fact that they had a better opportunity to learn about God and Jesus. Around thirty pupils attend the Friday Club run in the school by the local churches.

**The worshipping experience provided by the school is good (Grade: 2)**

Collective Worship is an important aspect of the life of the school. It is rarely cancelled to accommodate something else. Teachers and pupils of all faiths and none are able to participate in the acts of worship, which are led mainly by the Head, Deputy Head and Clergy. Every attempt is made not to remove disruptive children from the assembly, though it is not always possible for those with specific conditions. The Vicar plans the term's worship with the Head and he and the local Baptist minister share responsibility for Tuesdays' acts of worship. The clergy use Collective Worship to bring the Gospel into an everyday context and this is often carried forward into class circle time. Other visitors, such as charity workers, sometimes take part in Collective Worship too. The older children walk to the local church for major festivals, while the younger children use the closer Baptist chapel. The children enjoy the acts of worship, especially those led by the clergy and those in which they have an active role. They respond well and in the two acts of worship observed there was some demonstration of retained knowledge and a growth in understanding. Good use was made of artefacts. Parents gave examples of hymns and prayers remembered by the children, some of which have been repeated and used at home, for example at the burial of a pet rabbit. The children learn the Lord's Prayer and prayers are said in the classroom at the end of the day, some of which are composed/led by the children. More opportunity for quiet reflection and a distinctive focal point would enhance the worship experience. There needs to be a review of the Worship Policy and a system of monitoring and evaluating put in place.

**How effective is the religious education?  
(Grade: N/A)**

## **The leadership and management of the school as a Church School is good (Grade: 2)**

There is an implicit understanding of the school as a Church School by staff, parents and pupils. This is also seen in some of the displays in the school, the caring family atmosphere and the committed involvement of the local clergy. This needs to be celebrated and promoted more confidently in the school documents and stationery. Christian values and behaviour are modelled by the Head, Deputy Head and other staff, and these values and behaviour are encouraged and clearly effective throughout the school community. Servanthood, forgiveness, compassion for others and active involvement in the local community are among the distinctive Christian values in evidence at Wormley School. Each member of staff is part of a team through which personal and professional support is given. NQTs and supply teachers also feel supported. Governors link with subject leaders, come into school on a regular basis and often assist with school trips. There is a real sense of working together to implement the school vision. An example of this partnership is the Christmas meal which governors and every person who works in the school enjoy together. Pupil and parent questionnaires indicate a high level of satisfaction with the school and an appreciation of its caring attitude. There is a good partnership between the school and the local churches and the school is involved in a number of community projects including Village of the Year and the local carnival.