

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Long Lane Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Long Lane Village

Daibury Lees

Ashbourne

Derbyshire

DE6 5BJ

Diocese: **Derby**

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Date of last inspection: 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006

School's unique reference number: 112846

Headteacher: Mrs S Goodall

Inspector's name: Mr A R Gilroy      Inspector's number: 007

#### School context

Long Lane is a popular, small primary school situated in rural Derbyshire between Ashbourne and Derby. Numbers on roll have nearly doubled since the last inspection with more than 50% of the pupils coming from outside the catchment area. There are higher than average numbers of pupils with identified special educational needs, whilst the number entitled to free school meals is below average.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Long Lane Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School as a Church of England school are Outstanding

This very small Christian school really is at the heart of the community that it serves. Christian principles are owned and lived out in this family school so that whole school strategies are effective in enabling all pupils to give of their best. This caring and welcoming ethos creates a truly spiritual environment within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected.

#### Established strengths

- The Christian values which underpin all aspects of the work of the school and impact on the attitudes, relationships and achievements of pupils on a daily basis.
- The daily collective worship offered to the children that is nourishing their spiritual development, influences their behaviour and deepens their understanding of the Christian faith.
- The effectiveness and vision of the leadership, demonstrated by the head teacher, staff and governing body.
- The strong links that exist between the school, the local minister and church.

#### Focus for development

- Provide regular opportunities for the pupils to plan and present collective worship to the school community
- Involve stakeholders in the evaluation of the impact of collective worship so as to inform future developments.

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

Long Lane provides an excellent Christian learning environment where pupils are listened to and valued and where they are proud to belong to this special community. Here is a place where exemplary relationships are nurtured and everyone values the care and respect which underpins all school life. Within this cohesive family, there is a very strong sense of what it means to be living in a Christian community. Older pupils look out for the younger ones. Pupils value and respect the teachers as well as their friends. The school ethos provides a context for pupils to grow in their spiritual understanding and in faith, in an open and honest atmosphere where inclusivity and community cohesion are fundamental to the learning

process. Excellent moral and social practice enables all pupils to understand right from wrong, and gives witness to the excellent team spirit of the staff, both in school and church. Bright, prominent displays around the school enhance pupils' learning and contribute greatly to their spiritual development. The school is seen to value the widest range of achievement through the many activities offered to pupils, which enables them to make a positive contribution. 'Everyone has a talent – we all work together to make the best use of the them at our school', said one ten year old girl. Parents speak warmly of the Christian values which the school embodies. Pupils enjoy raising funds and giving to charity, an avenue through which they experience the Christian values of service and gratitude. Religious education contributes significantly to pupils' spiritual development. As a result, pupils can articulate The Christian Story well and show respect and understanding for other faiths and traditions. Religious education very effectively contributes to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and the Christian character of the school. The entire school environment provides clear evidence of the strength of the school's spirituality within the overarching Christian values that are the essence of its life and work.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Inspirational collective worship permeates all aspects of school life and has a significant impact on the pupils. They clearly enjoy worshipping and celebrating together, especially praying and singing which very effectively supports their spiritual development. As one child said, 'Worship is a time to listen and learn together, to think about and celebrate the life of Jesus'. Pupils find worship an affirming time and almost all could talk about being directly inspired to help others; such as contributing to a charity. Throughout the worship time, every child, including the youngest foundation stage children behave with respect and reverence. The collective worship observed was a family occasion where all were included and the atmosphere of celebration was tangible. Prayer is an important aspect of collective worship and all the pupils join in well with the the responses. They understand the Lord's Prayer and are clear about what forgiveness means. They know that, 'It doesn't matter where you pray as long as you are speaking to God'. They speak of the significance of the cross for Christians and how it is our route to eternal life. Clergy are very supportive and widen the pupils' spiritual experience of the Anglican tradition, as well as providing nurture and pastoral support to the school. The management of worship is excellent because the leader has a clear vision for quality worship in a range of styles. Monitoring of the worship is effectively carried out by staff and governors, but establishing the impact that it is having on the pupils has not been fully addressed. The school regularly uses the parish church next door for important services which the pupils greatly enjoy. One child said, 'We have the privilege of going to church for services at this school'.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding**

The headteacher, staff and governors inspire a strong Christian vision for the whole school community. They work hard to ensure the development of the whole child to their fullest potential, equipping them with skills for life. Everyone models the Christian vision. Parents find staff 'approachable about anything', commending the Christian values which are lived out and recognising the 'sense of achievement' given to pupils. Parents, Clergy and Governors are highly supportive of the school and willingly contribute to school life, making a difference to the learning and well-being of all pupils. The school is a focus in the community and the Church and pupils make an excellent contribution to many events. Long Lane is truly inclusive and is an excellent example of a church school in the area it serves, thus modelling and contributing greatly to community cohesion. The school council provides an excellent opportunity for the pupils to contribute to the development of their school and are regularly consulted by the staff. Governors provide a strong framework of challenge and support for the staff, enabling them to develop appropriate strategies to meet the needs of all the pupils in their care. Governors are regularly in school, and together with the parents play a full part in the life of the school. During these times they frequently make both formal and informal observations of the work of the school which they share with the head and staff. The two areas for development identified at the the last inspection have been properly addressed. There is an excellent partnership between the school, the church and the wider community which is to the benefit of all parties. The school values and makes good use of the support it receives from the diocese so everyone is involved in upholding the school's Anglican foundation.