

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Peter's Voluntary Controlled Church of England First School

Doniford Road
Williton
Taunton
TA4 4SF

Diocese: Bath & Wells

Local authority: Somerset
Date of inspection: 15th February 2011
Date of last inspection: 30th September 2008
School's unique reference number: 123781
Headteacher: Ian Bradbury (Executive Headteacher)
Inspector's name and number: Colleen Arnold 450

School context

St. Peter's VC First School serves the village of Williton and surrounding areas. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds. The number of pupils with special educational or disability needs is above average. The proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals is above average. The school is led by an Executive Headteacher and shares its governing body with the Quantock Federation Schools. The school provides before and after school clubs. The school is undergoing major refurbishment which has led to high levels of disruption with Year 4 pupils temporarily accommodated at Danesfield Middle School.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St. Peter's VC First School as a Church of England school are outstanding

The school demonstrates a real commitment to Christian values while respecting those of other or no faith. This has a very positive impact on the whole school, and wider community. It provides a solid grounding for learners' future wellbeing. St Peter's is truly inclusive; all are treated fairly and respected as individuals working together on a unique learning journey.

Established strengths

- Strong Christian ethos that encompasses explicit Christian values and inclusivity
- High profile and value of Collective Worship which engages learners and influences the daily lives of participants
- High quality teamwork that demonstrates Christian values and makes a significant contribution to the daily life of the school

Focus for development

- To further develop the role of learners in the planning, delivery and evaluation of collective worship
- To extend the involvement of the wider school community in evaluating St Peter's as a Church School

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

St Peter's is a very caring school, where all pupils feel valued and special. The children come first, and that is at the heart of everything the school does. The school is committed to educating the 'whole child', and pupils develop in their spiritual lives through outstanding Collective Worship and very good RE provision. This is enhanced through the well planned and creatively taught curriculum, which is very much enjoyed by the children. The school's Christian values have an evident impact on personal development and learning. Every child is known and recognised; 'doing your best' is asked and expected. The pupils say the school is a good place to learn. They are treated with respect, which in turn extend to adults

and other pupils. Good manners are expected and evident. A great spirit of co-operation and collaboration is apparent amongst adults and children, with a calm yet industrious atmosphere throughout. There are high levels of self-esteem, and the pupils show great maturity and independence. Typical of their caring is the welcome extended to visitors on arrival at the school. Parents are very positive about the school, in terms of its atmosphere, the quality of teaching and care extended to each child. Some expressed this: 'I like the way the children are taught to care for each other.' and 'My children are happy to come, attendance is excellent.' Charitable giving both locally and overseas is generous and pupil driven, with exceptional results. St Peter's philosophy of 'together on a learning journey' along with its Christian ethos and values, informs the daily lives of all at the school. Learners are encouraged to develop and use their own unique gifts from God. Learners who have a disability or learning need are fully integrated.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The daily act of worship is central to the life of the school. The vast majority of staff participate in worship on a daily basis. The worship is well-planned and sensitively delivered. Pupils are led to understand Christian teaching through reflection on things that are of value or concern in their own lives. They respond very readily. Their answers to questions show considerable depth of thought, and they sing with great feeling. In the act of worship observed, pupils were invited to think about winners and losers which was extended to incorporate the concept of fairness. It also provoked thought about rich and poorer nations. The children were articulate and expressed their thoughts very well. They offered prayers for those less fortunate than themselves. Several spoke later of the value of this aspect of worship. 'If we didn't have quiet, we wouldn't get ideas', one said, while another described feeling 'really calm' during this time. Pupils appreciate being able to offer their own prayers when they lead the school in prayer. Worship in school is complemented by a variety of Christian worship leaders, and by special services to celebrate major festivals. Pupils spoke of their enjoyment of these events in which they are able to play a major part. Staff and governors have identified the potential for pupils to take on more active roles in collective worship in school. The maintenance of good practice in worship is assured by careful monitoring and evaluation by the Senior Management Team and governors.

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

The Executive Headteacher and leadership team are fully committed to providing a stimulating learning environment where children feel safe, are happy and enjoy learning. Together they ensure that Christian principles and values underpin the daily life of the school. The Executive Headteacher and senior leaders of the school have a clear vision and commitment to enabling each child to develop as well rounded individuals. Leadership of religious education is a strength at St Peter's. Governors are very involved in the life of the school. They provide challenge and support for the Headteacher and staff team. They are committed to ensuring the Christian character of the school is maintained, developed and promoted effectively. An evaluation of the school's distinctiveness as a church school is being revisited in light of recent governor training. Parents appreciate the way in which the school provides a caring, Christian environment for their children. They are supportive of the Christian ethos. Parents enjoy participating in celebration 'assembly' and appreciate the opportunity to engage with the school at work. Very good and effective links with the parish are valued. The parish is currently in a period of vacancy; however the Parochial Church Council provides support to the school. Links with other Christian leaders enhance the worship experience for all learners, which further promotes the Christian ethos and enhances the Christian character and foundation of the school.