

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

### Report

School:	<b>Enmore Church of England Primary School Enmore, Bridgwater TA5 2DX</b>
Status:	<b>Foundation</b>
Diocese:	<b>Bath and Wells</b>
Local Authority:	<b>Somerset County</b>
Date of Inspection;	<b>25<sup>th</sup> June 2009</b>
Date of last Inspection:	<b>13<sup>th</sup> October 2006</b>
School's unique ref. no.	<b>123787</b>
Name of Head teacher:	<b>Mr Duncan MacRae</b>
Chair of Governors:	<b>Mr Michael Dodden</b>
Inspector's name & NS no:	<b>Mrs Janet Bond 247</b>

### School Context

Enmore Church of England School has 136 children in the age range 4 to 11 years. It is situated at the edge of the village within walking distance of the church. Children come mainly from Enmore village and the nearby local villages or the larger town of Bridgwater. Nearly all children are from a white British background. The old school building has been enhanced with spacious classrooms, ICT suite, hall and library, all purpose built on the school site. The school has creatively used the outdoor space to provide a range of learning areas, including willow walks designed by the children.

## **Summary Judgement**

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Enmore Church of England Primary School as a church school is outstanding**

All within the school community live out Christian values and the caring Christian ethos that underpins all aspects of school life. All individuals are valued and are exceptionally well nurtured to achieve very high standards in their academic and personal development.

### **Established Strengths**

- Children's behaviour which demonstrates Christian care, compassion and responsibility in all aspects of school life
- Children's attitude to, and enthusiasm for school, where high expectations encourage all to achieve very well
- Outstanding relationships which reflect the Christian values of the school

### **Focus for development**

- Make more explicit spiritual opportunities across the curriculum
- Create more frequent opportunities for worship in Church

### **The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding in the way it meets the needs of all learners**

This is a school where children and staff live the Christian values that permeate all aspects of school life. Children are happy, confident and strive to give of their best because they are effectively encouraged and supported to achieve as well as they can. Relationships are outstanding, between children and between adults and children, reflecting the excellent role models provided by staff, governors and the Rector. Children know they are cared for and valued, they are confident to express their ideas and opinions, and know to whom they should talk if they have any concerns. The school council provides a forum for children to be actively involved in school developments and in supporting local, national and international charities. One of their projects was to monitor how much water and electricity the school used and to see how this could be reduced, thereby reducing costs and aiding the care of the planet. Numerous opportunities are provided for children to take responsibilities and to contribute to school and community life. Religious education lessons effectively support children's understanding of Christian life and values as well as those of other religions. They are challenged and supported to give their own ideas, such as key rules or ideas by which to live. Children have a very good understanding of right and wrong, of behaviour that supports all, and their own responsibilities. They are active in being eco-friendly and in living a healthy lifestyle, with both Huff and Puff and Wake and Shake being part of their physical fitness regime. Children show a high degree of care and consideration for others. Playtimes are amiable and friendly, and children work cooperatively in class exceptionally well. This is an inclusive school where all are treated equally and provided with effective and appropriate support. Children with complex learning needs from a

local special school are regularly invited to join in activities. The school environment supports children's spiritual development through its proximity to the beauties of the natural world, and through interactive aspects such as a huge willow cross on the external wall that all children participated in making, and the willow walks and areas they designed and built. The rich and varied curriculum coupled with high quality resources, including a new computer suite, further enhances children's opportunities to explore and investigate their own ideas and experiences.

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

Collective worship enhances the school's sense of community, and most effectively promotes and reinforces the school's Christian values. Older children have responsibility for preparing the hall and, on entry, all children respond positively to the reverent and peaceful atmosphere established by the use of music, by the candles, the cross and cloth on the altar and the beautiful wall hangings depicting the dove of peace. Their attention is held by thought provoking images of statues, people such as Ghandi and Edith Cavell are depicted on a huge screen above the wall hangings. The worship is initiated by children lighting the candles and leading the response. As a result of an engaging and relevant factual story, linked to the Sermon on the Mount, children sat enthralled, and clearly understood the message of doing one's best, of having determination, of asking God's help and of the need for world peace. The use of images on the screen and the children's involvement in making origami birds (part of the story) ensured their attention was sustained. All listened to the prayer and reflected on something about which they were determined. The hymn singing clearly demonstrated their enthusiasm, joy and understanding of the words of the hymn. To finish, a group of children led the blessing. Throughout, the children's behaviour and attitude to worship were exemplary. Children regularly have responsibility for planning and taking worship, choosing the Biblical text, writing prayers and choosing hymns. A beautifully presented prayer book, produced and written by the children, is kept for them to use. Children also have the opportunity to write their thoughts and comments about worship. The Rector leads worship every fortnight, about which the children talk enthusiastically, and major services and festivals are celebrated in the church. This extends the children's knowledge and understanding of the Anglican tradition. However, parents and members of the community are limited to attending the services in church due to the size of the hall. Governors participate regularly in acts of worship and also evaluate its impact on the school community.

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

The Christian values and mission statement written by the children, staff and governors, underpin all aspects of school life. The headteacher has established an ethos of high aspirations for all within the school community. Equal emphasis is placed on academic and personal development, effective and appropriate support is very successfully provided. The school has honest and effective systems for self evaluation in which all are involved. This allows the school to focus on appropriate areas for further development. Governors are

active, supportive, and well informed, and have a good understanding of the school as a church school. Religious education is very well led and organised by a knowledgeable coordinator, and work is underway to further develop the assessment of children's learning. Excellent links with parents, the church and community ensure all work towards a common purpose. As one parent said, "Children love school, they 'bounce' in because they want to be there". Parents and members of the church and community are involved with school life in a variety of ways, such as working in classrooms and running clubs. The school is involved with the Church and community, for example contributing to the parish magazine, dancing at the Church fete and donating harvest produce to the local women's refuge. The school provides an attractive, stimulating and very well maintained learning environment where all feel cared for and welcome. This is a very happy school where children thrive.

*This inspection was carried out on behalf of the Diocese of Bath & Wells in whose area the school is set, in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. The inspection framework used is that established by The National Society of the Church of England for the denominational inspection of church schools for all dioceses in England and Wales.*

*Your comments or complaints should be addressed to the Education Department, The Diocese of Bath & Wells, The Old Deanery, Wells, Somerset BA5 2UG. Further information about inspection of church schools can be obtained from the National Society's website at [www.natsoc.org.uk](http://www.natsoc.org.uk).*