



## *National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report*

### **Mangotsfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Church Farm Road  
Emerson's Green  
Bristol BS16 7EY

#### **Diocese: Bristol**

Local authority: South Gloucestershire  
Dates of inspection: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007  
Date of last inspection: September 2002  
School's unique reference number: 109164  
Headteacher: Mr Mark Cripps  
Inspector's name and number: Mr Andrew Rickett 201

#### ***School context***

Mangotsfield is a large primary school. The mobility of children is high both in and out of school, due in a large part to the number of children from military families. Nearly all children come from a white British heritage. The headteacher has been in post since January 2007.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Mangotsfield as a Church of England school are good**

Mangotsfield is a school which has developed a very clear vision to underpin its Christian ethos. It actively encourages children to live their lives according to Christian principles and this has a direct affect on the quality of the children's learning and personal development.

#### ***Established strengths***

- The clear set of values which underpin the school's Christian ethos.
- The coherence between the school ethos and themes in collective worship.
- The high quality of care and respect for all in the school community

#### ***Focus for development***

- Governors to explore processes to monitor and evaluate collective worship and the school's Christian ethos.
- Involve children in the evaluation of collective worship.

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

Significant progress is being made to enhance the school's Christian character through the introduction of twelve core values. These have been identified as embodying the school ethos and have been the subject of much deliberation involving staff and governors. This has led to a clarity of purpose, placing these values at the centre of school life and reflecting how Jesus taught us to lead our lives. The values are being successfully introduced

throughout the year and are already having an impact on both children and parents. For example, when speaking to parents, they are aware which values are currently being discussed and explored in school because their children talk about them at home. Part of the success of this initiative lies in the openness of relationships within the school community which is based on a high level of trust between children and adults. Since they form a significant part of the school ethos, the school has already identified that these values need to become embedded and that it will require careful monitoring and evaluation. The school's care for children is evident in the high quality of teaching and the strong curriculum. Standards of achievement are high and the school has effective procedures in place to ensure that all children have opportunities to reach their potential. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are very well supported and this enables them to reach their targets. Attitudes towards learning are excellent. Children respond well in lessons and are engaged in the learning tasks. The School Council provides an effective way for children to have a voice in the school. It is taken seriously by both children and adults and has made contributions towards improving the school environment as well as spearheading the school's very worthwhile charitable work.

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

The impact of collective worship is being significantly enhanced as it is made more central to the life of the school. This has been successfully achieved because worship themes have been closely linked to the twelve core values and worship is the main way through which these values are delivered on a daily basis. This is supported through the 'Values for Life' programme which has been intertwined with worship themes and then further developed through links with the children's social and emotional development using SEAL material. Worship now has a clearer focus and a message that is strengthened because it is more coherently linked to the school ethos, creating a powerful programme. This is gradually being introduced throughout the year, but the school has identified that the next stage is to monitor the impact which this is having on the children. The clarity of the message was seen in a KS2 act of worship which emphasised the consequences our actions can have on ourselves and others. This was done very well because it brought the theme alive by relating it to the children's own experiences. In addition, there are good links to passages of scripture that reinforce the children's understanding of the teachings of Jesus. This theme was explored further by challenging children to consider how hard it can be sometimes to do the right thing when things are difficult. Children have good attitudes towards worship and say how important it is to have a moral code to guide their way of living. Their understanding of prayer is very good. For example, one child explained that through prayer God will give the courage and determination to find a way through challenging times. Good use is made of visitors who lead worship regularly. This includes a highly effective team from the parish church whose style of worship is enjoyed by the children.

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

The headteacher has an exceptionally clear vision as to how the Christian ethos can be a living part of the daily life of the school. He has done this in an effective way that has involved staff, governors and members of the church. Together they have identified what it means to be a Christian and how this can be reflected in all that the school does. Because of this process there is a strong sense of shared ownership of the core values and this has been of great value in getting the messages across to children and parents. The appointment of a new chair of governors as well as several new governors and an even closer involvement of the vicar means that the school is at an exciting time to take its Christian character forward. They understand that it will take time for these excellent new initiatives to have an impact. The school has the capacity to ensure that the implementation of its core values are carefully monitored and evaluated. Governors are deeply involved in the development of the Christian ethos and have a very good understanding of how the school's values underpin the type of

society that the school is aiming to be. This commitment is reflected in the regular discussions about the school's Christian character at governor meetings. The chair of governors and the vicar work very closely with the headteacher and this close rapport creates a strong team with a united vision for the school. The deputy headteacher is very involved in the development of the ethos through her leadership of collective worship. She has ensured that worship is central to the life of the school because it is through this that the school's Christian messages are given. Links with the church are good and the vicar is keen to see these become even closer. He fulfils a pastoral role in the school for both children and adults and is regarded with affection by the children. The developing closeness of school and church is evident in the way that the school is used regularly on Sundays for special services for the families of young people. Parents are very supportive of the school and say that the adults are excellent role models for Christian living and that this creates a community in which their children are nurtured in a safe and secure environment. They agree that the school is successful in teaching children to treat others as they themselves would wish to be treated.

SIAS report December 2007 Mangotsfield Primary School, Bristol BS16 7EY