

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Morville Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Morville,
Bridgnorth,
Shropshire
WV16 4RJ

Diocese:**Hereford**

Local authority:

Shropshire

Dates of inspection:

July 2nd 2012

Date of last inspection:

November 14th 2008

School's unique reference number:

123486

Headteacher:

Mrs Helen Heaton-Cooper

Inspector's name and number:

John Chapman NS 0006

School context

The school, with 58 pupils in 4 classes, serves an area of south east Shropshire based on the village of Morville. This inspection took place before the report of the recent Ofsted inspection was published.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Morville as a Church of England school are good

Morville is an effective church school with many good features. It is well led and Christian values are at the heart of school life. Pupils are happy, very well behaved and prepared for their next stage in life. The school's own self evaluation is ongoing. Most of the issues raised in the previous inspection have been considered. There are very good opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.

Established strengths

- The sense of responsibility and good behaviour of pupils who show pride in their school
- The ability of pupils to articulate and live out the school's Christian values
- The leadership of the headteacher who has the capacity and determination to drive the school forward

Focus for development

- Make the Mission Statement more fully reflective of the school as a church school
- Relate the School Charter to what takes place in the curriculum and in worship throughout the school year
- Create a focus table for collective worship to enhance the quality of the occasion for pupils

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

The school provides a welcoming and attractive environment with caring and approachable staff committed to the best development of all pupils. The prospectus emphasises an ethos which encourages sensitivity, responsibility and trust and each of these values are clearly evident in the day to day life of the school. Pupils feel individually known, well cared for and safe. They speak easily about looking after each other and showing forgiveness; they demonstrate this care for each other even when unobserved. "But we are in a Christian school" said one boy. Pupils' talents are nurtured, and at the weekly Friday assembly their achievements of all kinds are celebrated. Care is taken to ensure every pupil gets recognition of some kind in the course of time. The school pays attention to special needs as well as to achievement. Pupils' behaviour is excellent. The long established playground pals scheme trains older pupils to help the younger ones and this contributes to good relationships across the age groups. The school council gives pupils a stake in the school's development. It has helped the school gain a number of special awards and selects causes for the school to support. Most recently it has been concerned with the refurbishment of the dining room. A school charter, covering effort, behaviour, respect and health is written each year with every class providing a paragraph. At present its impact seems to diminish as the school year

proceeds. Prayer is an important constituent of school life both in worship and at other times of the day. Pupils write their own prayers for collective worship on a rota basis; these are then displayed as a leaf on the prayer tree. In one class, pupils asked if they could say some spontaneous prayers at the end of a religious education lesson, even though the teacher had not planned for this. RE makes a strong contribution to the school's Christian ethos and to pupils' spiritual and moral development. Lessons are well prepared and capably taught by committed teachers. Pupils show empathy and can apply what they are taught to their own lives. In one class pupils could work out how Jesus would have reacted to a number of current issues. The school is crammed with displays and artefacts many of which support its Christian ethos. The cross in each classroom is from a design chosen by pupils and the display on prayer in the library area, along with the prayer tree is particularly effective. The external environment has been attractively developed and now includes an area for quiet reflection.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The impact of worship is good because both pupils and staff see its place in school life as important, and because its themes are followed up in the classroom. Pupils comment quite spontaneously to their teachers about what they have experienced in worship. Worship brings the community together to celebrate values and to give pupils an opportunity to reflect on issues of faith and belief. Pupils particularly value the tradition of sharing their work and achievements in the context of worship. The policy document emphasises that all members of the community actively participate. Worship time feels special; pupils enter quietly sometimes to appropriate music. They are attentive, reverent and respond readily to what takes place. They sing heartily and love participation; reading their own prayers is a highlight. The school has to use a classroom for worship so making the occasion feel different and special presents a challenge. Whilst most acts of worship are broadly Christian, on occasion they reflect the beliefs and practices of other faiths. For example, a Jewish teacher shared his beliefs and values with pupils. Worship is monitored by a foundation governor and the head; there is scope for seeking the views of parents and pupils also. The school makes good use of the local church. Major school services held there include festivals and a Year 6 leavers service in which leavers share their thoughts about the school. The village does not have a resident incumbent, but a priest from Bridgnorth looks after the church, is a foundation governor, and gives valuable service to the school in part by his emphasis on the Anglican tradition.

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

The committed leadership of the headteacher and staff make Morville an effective church school. The headteacher is hard working and keeps to a clear vision for the school and its development. She is committed to pupils' spiritual and moral development. Her vision is well articulated in fortnightly newsletters and in other documentation. The Christian aims of the school need to be made more explicit in the prospectus however. The staff team are united in wanting to support and promote the Christian values and they are good role models for pupils. Care is taken when making appointments to ensure incoming staff are in sympathy with the aims of a church school and can make a contribution to their achievement. Staff are encouraged to give thought to the evaluation of what is achieved in RE and this features in the school's development plan. The school has a recently energised governing body which shows itself capable of providing both support and challenge. It is still on an upward learning curve. The foundation governors ensure RE and Worship receive due consideration. The school encourages parents to see themselves as full partners in their children's education. They find the school open and accessible. They are very pleased with the all round development of their children though some feel there could be better consultation or communication about changes within the school. They very much like the *Fortnightly Flier* which includes the pupils' prayer rota for the next two weeks. There is a good two-way flow of information between the school and the church, and the foundation governor runs a Sunday school on the second Sunday of the month which a number of pupils attend. Developing an awareness of cultures and traditions beyond the local environment is a core aim. This is in part addressed in RE and worship and pupils have raised funds for many good causes. The school is looking to increase opportunities for spiritual awareness by having more direct experience of the diverse religious traditions found in the West Midlands.