

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Newton Regis Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Austrey Lane  
Newton Regis  
Tamworth  
B79 0NL

#### Diocese: Birmingham

Local authority: Warwickshire  
Date of inspection: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012  
Date of last inspection: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
School's unique reference number: 125643  
Headteacher: Samantha Dennis  
Inspector's name and number: Julie Moore  
Incumbent: Reverend Stephen Banks

#### School context

Newton Regis Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a small primary school which has 111 pupils on roll. A minority of pupils live in the village and a significant number of pupils live further afield. Almost all pupils are from White British backgrounds with a very small number from minority ethnic backgrounds. At the time of the inspection the headteacher had been in post for almost three months.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Newton Regis as a Church of England school are good

The new headteacher provides clear and effective leadership within the strong Christian ethos of this school. Christian values are firmly and securely embedded in the Mission Statement enabling the school's senior leaders to have a distinct vision of the school's future direction as a church school. All members of the school and church families have the willingness and capability to drive the school forward at a good pace as it moves forward along its faith journey.

#### Established strengths

- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is strengthened and developed very successfully through all aspects of the curriculum and collective worship.
- Prayer has a high profile and pupils' prayers demonstrate a mature understanding and empathy towards the needs of others.
- Effective partnerships between the school and church families, clergy, the diocese and the local community enable prayer and worship to have a significant impact all round.

#### Focus for development

- Develop links with a school which is in a different area to the village of Newton Regis.
- Expand work in progress so that links with other faiths and communities are strengthened both locally and internationally.

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

The Christian values of kindness, respect, forgiveness, trust and friendship are securely embedded throughout all aspects of the school's life and work. Parents and pupils are pleased about this and comments such as, '*This is a very warm and understanding school where children are taught good, Christian values which help them to have good relationships with each other*' from a parent and, from a pupil, '*Everyone has lots of friends here and they help you to play together and do your work well*', together demonstrate the successful way in which the school's strong Christian values help every pupil to flourish and develop. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good and the spiritual dimension of the school's

work continues to grow and develop very well. This hold good for all pupils whether they have a Christian faith, another faith or no faith at all. Quiet areas are used regularly by pupils for personal reflection and prayer, providing a valuable opportunity for a moment of peace during the busy school day. There are many ways that pupils demonstrate their respect and support for each other and their charitable work enables them to support others in a positive and meaningful way. Older pupils enjoy making decisions about their school, a good preparation for future citizenship in this cohesive school. Relationships are very good. All members of the school family work together in a positive manner as they drive the school forward in its faith journey. Throughout the whole school the many tangible examples of the Christian character of Newton Regis strongly reinforce the school's Christian faith and spirituality. As one pupil explained, *'If you are worried about anything you write it on a piece of paper and put it in the prayer box. That means that everyone helps you'*. Crosses, prayer boxes, displays and quiet areas – both inside and out of doors, all contribute very effectively to the school's Christian ethos.

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

Collective worship and prayer are central to school life and this is due to the strength of the school's Christian character. Pupils are comfortable and secure when talking about their different worship experiences and they are happy to share their own experiences when leading class, school or church based worship. For example, one pupil said *'I like it when children lead worship because sometimes they act out a story from the Bible, like when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, and its great'*. Pauses for personal reflection and quiet prayer are evident throughout worship and the 'specialness' of the worship experience enhances pupils' personal awareness of the spirituality of the occasion very successfully. Christian festivals and traditions are celebrated at appropriate times and many pupils are aware of the liturgical colours used on the worship table. All of which ensures that pupils have a good understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. Prayer is very important to the life and work of the school and pupils of all ages are adept at writing and talking about their prayers. In one class Book of Prayers a young pupil wrote, *'Dear God, Thank you for our family and friends. Help us to be happy children and help our friends. Help us to stop wars. Amen.'* Indicating a mature sensitivity towards the power of friendship as well as the positive contribution of prayer and worship to school life generally. Worship planning and delivery are monitored and evaluated at regular intervals enabling good progress to be made in identifying gaps and tackling them successfully. These were issues at the previous inspection that have been tackled well.

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

The new headteacher and her team are actively supported by parents, pupils, staff, governors and clergy as they work closely together, driving the school forward and promoting its Christian character very successfully. For example, the entire leadership team are searching for an appropriate verse or phrase which encapsulates the aims and values of the school's Mission Statement. Foundation governors are well aware of the need to become more active in monitoring the school's progress and plans are in hand to facilitate this. Communication is good and parents and the wider community have a clear understanding of what this truly Christian school stands for in their local community. Pupils, staff and parents are keen to share their thoughts and ideas about what the school does well as a church school in addition to giving their own suggestions for improvement. Comments such as, *'We love joining in worship'*, *'Young Leaders are really good at helping and supporting the younger ones'*, *'They teach children to know right from wrong'* and *'We wanted our children to come here because it really is a good school and it is connected with the church'* clearly indicate the strength of the shared vision by members of the school and church families and the wider community. Governors and senior leaders are well aware of the need to participate in training as they fulfil their role in this church school. An effective start has been made to tackle this issue and Newton Regis is strongly placed to move forward at a good pace. Links with a range of other schools are being developed successfully but the school has few international links and there are no links with a school in a different area to the village of Newton Regis.