



## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Wroot Travis Charity Church of England Primary School**

Field Lane  
Wroot  
Nr Doncaster  
South Yorkshire  
DN9 2BN

#### **Diocese: Lincoln**

Local authority: North Lincolnshire  
Dates of inspection: 1 July 2011  
Date of last inspection: 4 and 6 June 2008  
School's unique reference number: 118022  
Headteacher: Mrs C Cook  
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Yvonne Shaw NS 245

#### **School context**

Since the last inspection the number on roll has risen significantly and is currently 37. The vast majority of pupils are of White British heritage and all speak English as their first language. There is now a breakfast club for which the governing body is responsible. Over half the pupils travel in to the school from the surrounding villages.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wroot Travis Charity Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are good**

Wroot Church of England Primary School is a very small school where Christian principles are at the heart of all it seeks to do. Pupils, staff, governors and the wider community are happy and caring of each other and of the school. The school is successful in creating a happy and secure Christian environment where effective learning takes place and where the spiritual development of all is a high priority.

#### **Established strengths**

- The inclusive Christian ethos of the school, based on shared values, in which all pupils and staff are highly valued and where the achievement of all is celebrated.
- High quality relationships and the partnership between the school and the community, strengthened as a result of the clear vision of the headteacher and governors.
- Teamwork which has resulted from the drive and determination of all staff to provide for the needs of all, aided by an extremely strong and positive parent body.
- Excellent links with the local church, including the Methodist church enable increasingly high quality and much valued opportunities for worship.

### **Focus for development**

- Introduce greater rigor to the planning and recording of collective worship, to take into account seasonal themes, national issues and the schools Christian visions and values.
- Increase the involvement of pupils and clergy in planning and delivering collective worship ensuring opportunities for the development of children's prayer.
- Involve all stakeholders in reviewing and evaluating the work of the school as a Church of England school so that its distinctive Christian character can be fully articulated.

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

Christian values are evident in every part of the school, particularly regarding the quality of care which is outstanding. Opportunities for spiritual development are strong. It is made clear by all that the school's values nourish and challenge spiritual, moral and social development for all pupils, although not all are able to articulate that the values are overtly Christian. The school is a very calm environment where everyone is appreciated as part of the school family. Staff work well as a team and the involvement of all members is valued. The quality of relationships, based on love, care and respect are outstanding. During inspection, two key words were repeatedly used by all interviewed, 'love' and 'care'. Conflict and complaints are consistently and speedily resolved in a spirit of reconciliation and justice. This is exemplary. Pupils develop thorough understanding of their local cultural heritage but this is less developed on a national and global level. Through their management of the care for the school's chickens and a butterfly hatchery for example, pupils gain a great understanding of the awe and wonder of God's wonderful world and they have a deepening respect for it. Every aspect of the school environment, including the rural setting, is effectively used to enhance spiritual development. Pupils say that they are very happy to come to school and that they feel entirely safe. They are also fully confident that their voice is heard and that their views are respected and acted upon. Governors, staff, parents and pupils speak highly of all that the school provides despite its limitation of size. Parents value what the school provides for pupils saying, 'It's inclusive and the values learned equip our children for life' and 'my children's inner being is nourished'. The school proclaims its Christian foundation in the entrance area of the school to good effect and this aspect has improved since the last inspection. The Christian ethos of the school is very strong and permeates school life so that all within the school feel valued and cared for. Good quality and enjoyable religious education enables pupils to reflect and relate key concepts to their own lives. Every aspect of achievement is celebrated and pupils are proud that their achievements are fully recognised. They are willing and actively involved in charity fundraising, both nationally and world-wide. This is as a result of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments which are features of learning in religious education, other subjects and worship. Behaviour is exemplary and the pupils who spoke to the inspector were polite and extremely articulate. Each one was confident and competent in expressing their views, including some of the youngest pupils.

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

As a result of the overall improvement and the progress made since the last inspection, collective worship is now good. There is an obvious lack of space in the school and a key issue at the last inspection was to work within the constraints of the building and seek to make collective worship a special occasion. This has now been effectively managed through the use of an outdoor classroom which is used for worship for the vast majority of the year. It has created an area where worshippers can be reflective and experience the awe and wonder of the seasons of the year. The contribution to spiritual development through use of this area is good. Members of the school community feel welcome and included in acts of worship. Regular acts of worship are led by the local vicar, the Methodist Minister and occasionally other visitors. Worship is frequently used to influence the thinking and day to day actions of the school community. At Christian celebration times of Harvest, Christmas and Easter, and to mark the end of the year, the school goes to church for a service led by the local clergy and more recently also led and planned by pupils. These occasions provide pupils with a good introduction to the rich traditions of the Anglican faith. School services in church are always well attended by the community and parents speak highly of their value. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about their love of hymn singing and readily quoted favourite

hymns. Prayer is an important part of the worship and the school day, but there is limited opportunity for pupils to write their own prayers or link prayer to their own lives. Collective worship is well resourced and the co-ordinator is looking forward to electricity being connected to the outdoor classroom so that there isn't the reliance on battery operated music equipment. The absence of a long term development plan for collective worship hinders its growth and weakens the effectiveness of its impact on those present. Although other faith celebrations are introduced so that pupils value religious diversity, opportunities are missed to fully reflect the breadth or variety of the Church of England year. Clergy, pupils and foundation governors are keen to be involved in planning for collective worship. The leaders of the school can ensure that collective worship is improved in taking into account seasonal themes, national issues and the school's own visions and values. Linked to this is a need for a robust system of monitoring and evaluation of collective worship to contribute to school self evaluation as a church school.

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

The headteacher has a strong sense of purpose based on Christian values of care and compassion. She is extremely well thought of by all stakeholders and is cited as the key to the strong reputation of the school. Parents feel that the leadership of the school as a church school is a strong contributing factor to the way in which their children grow spiritually and form strong support groups for each other, even after leaving the school. The support from the school for those less well off than themselves through fundraising activities both local and national further strengthens pupils' ability to be compassionate to others. Pupils state that they love their school because 'it's small, we all know and love each other', 'I trust the teachers here' and 'this school is perfect – we're just like one big, happy family'. The headteacher is very well supported by a keen and enthusiastic governing body which provides an increasingly firm direction and vision of how distinctive Christian values permeate throughout the school. Highly effective links with the local church and wider community ensure that there is mutual regard for each other's contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the learners. Issues identified by stakeholders are speedily and consistently addressed and this is greatly valued by stakeholders. Pupils were fully involved in reviewing the mission statement recently and this is prominently displayed around the school and in the prospectus. Pupils state confidently that by the time they reach Year 6 and leave, the school has successfully lived out its mission statement. Less clear however, is how overtly Christian aims and values permeate all policy making. Governors are united in their view that they would welcome a greater involvement in evaluating the school as a church school and see this as a means of increasing their support for leadership. Key stakeholders are unaware of the current evaluation document. The last inspection report spoke of the whole community being aware of the distinctive nature of the school, although some have difficulty in articulating this in terms of its Christian mission. This remains the case. However, all spoken to during this inspection expressed a willingness to be involved in school self review as a church school.

SIAS report July 2011. Wroot Travis Charity Church of England Primary School, Field Lane, Wroot, Nr Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN9 2BN