



Type of school (Infant, Primary, Middle, Secondary etc)	Primary
Status (VA, VC or Foundation, CTC or Academy)	Voluntary Controlled
Diocese	Oxford
Local Authority	Buckinghamshire
Dates of inspection	30.01.2009
Date of last inspection	13 th -14 th September 2004
School's Unique reference number	110413
Name of Headteacher	Mrs Judith Foster (Acting)
Name of Chair of Governors	Mrs Julie Wrigley
Inspector's name and NS inspector's number	Ian Lewis 629

Context

Padbury is a very small school serving the villages of Padbury and Adstock. There are currently 11 pupils on roll comprising Early Years Foundation Stage and Year 1, although it has the ability to take pupils to Year 4. The Acting Head Teacher and the two teachers have been in post since September 2008. The school enjoys a close partnership with the village church and is seen by the local community as occupying a key role in its life.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Padbury as a Church of England school are outstanding

The school's extremely strong Christian ethos, very well supported by a dynamic and dedicated team of staff and governors, make it a vibrant and exciting place in which to grow and learn. It has high expectations of attitude and learning and creates a strong culture of mutual care and respect. This, together with very close links to the parish church, ensure that its status as a church school is both recognised and welcomed by the local community.

Established strengths

- An exceptionally strong Christian ethos which permeates all aspects of school life
- A dedicated and active governing body
- Strongly supportive parents
- A culture of high expectation of pupils' achievements and behaviour

Focus for development

- There are no significant areas for development.

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

Its exceptionally strong Christian ethos is at the heart of Padbury school, promoting values that determine its daily life and which are reflected in its confident, caring and respectful pupils. This was further reinforced by a parent who stated that "Christianity is the platform on which this school is built". The school environment strongly illustrates this through vibrant, colourful displays which reflect and support religious understanding and include the links with the parish church. Pupils are actively encouraged to play an important part in school development through the school council. Ideas and views are put forward which are listened to and acted upon by staff, ensuring that the children confidently know that they are important members of the school community. They have, for example, decided upon the school rules and they are currently playing a major part in devising topics for this term's "off curriculum" week. They are also strongly involved in deciding the content of the school's church services. The result is children who are developing a real sense of responsibility and who feel strongly valued for their contribution to school life. Parents cannot praise the school highly enough. They clearly believe that its deeply rooted Christian values help their children develop into responsible, caring citizens. Both parents and children say that the ethos of the school ensures a safe and secure environment in which to enjoy living and learning. Children spoke of being able to talk to teachers knowing they will be listened to with any potential

problems effectively dealt with. "The teachers make us feel safe" was the comment from one pupil. They thoroughly enjoy coming to school (parents even speaking of having difficulty in persuading them to stay at home when they are unwell) and approach learning with enthusiasm. "My daughter adores school" was one comment whilst another said her child "...will run to school every day". Both parents and pupils are strongly aware and appreciative that Padbury is a church school, speaking warmly regarding the close involvement of the associate priest in school life. The children also spoke enthusiastically about their enjoyment of the services in church.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.

The school's exceptionally strong and vibrant Christian ethos is clearly reflected in collective worship which occupies a key role in its life. It is extremely evident that worship is seen as a special time by the young children in the school for whom it underpins the Christian values they are actively learning and demonstrating in their daily lives. They respond to worship with both enthusiasm and reverence, taking an active part whilst understanding the need for quiet reflection when appropriate. They clearly understand the relevance of the lit candle on which they focus, confidently explaining that it represents Jesus as the Light of the world. Their singing, accompanied by the piano, shows real enjoyment with every one of the children joining in enthusiastically. Excellent planning in the long, medium and short term has been vigorously addressed since the last (section 23) inspection and is firmly rooted in the Anglican tradition of Christianity. It clearly reflects the excellent collective worship policy. Using the Values Education programme as a basis, it builds and supports the Christian values by which the children live. This is demonstrated in their caring and supportive attitudes towards one another which is a feature of the school and one on which parents proudly comment. Other faiths and cultures are well represented in planning and past evidence, usually through relevant festivals. The school makes every effort to involve visitors to support this, a recent example being the bringing of Indian dance to the children as part of their learning about Diwali. The parish's associate priest in particular is very actively involved in the school and regularly leads worship. In addition, worship is held in the church on appropriate occasions which is helping to build the children's knowledge and understanding of Anglican faith and values. Governors take an active interest in the school's collective worship, regularly evaluating and subsequently discussing its impact with the governing body and staff.

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

At the heart of the school is an exceptionally strong vision firmly based on Christian principles, clearly shown as the basis of the mission statement and evidenced in the caring and mutually supportive attitude of the pupils towards one another. The Chair of Governors states that "The school's values hold the children together and stands them in good stead as they move on". The vision is passionately promoted by the Acting Head and the teaching staff together with an extremely active and dedicated governing body which is closely involved with the life of the school. The parents strongly value this and view the school in close partnership with the church as central to the local community. Since the previous (Section 23) inspection, much has been done to strengthen links with the PCC on which foundation governors sit. One result has been regular coffee mornings in the school to which the local community is invited, strengthening the existing links. Governors work in partnership with staff in the planning and subsequent evaluation of worship. They take great interest in pupils' learning, observing and commenting on school practice. Observations are discussed with the whole governing body leading to further improvements through development planning. The strength of this governing body is evidenced in the fact that, despite the extremely small number of pupils, the school is not only still open but is a vibrant community. Both parents and pupils are closely involved in the school's development, the former through questionnaires and personal contact with the governing body and the children through the school council. Both have confidence that their views are considered and acted upon. Parents speak enthusiastically of the support given to their children, a typical comment being "I can't wait for my son to start school here". They also strongly support the involvement of the church, particularly that of the associate priest.