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THE CHURCH
IN WALES

Gwella Inspection of Church in Wales Schools Report

St. Peter's Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

Chapel Lane,
Rossett.

Local authority: Wrexham

Dates of inspection: 3rd and 4th June, 2019.

Date of last inspection: July 2016.

School's unique reference number: 6653028

Acting Headteacher: Mrs Helen Pritchard B.Ed

Inspector's name : Mr. Neil Roberts B.Ed.



School context

St. Peter's is a Voluntary Controlled Primary School serving the village of Rossett and its immediate locality since 1949. It is a co-educational English medium school catering for children from 3 to 11 with 225 pupils currently on roll. There are 8 full-time teachers, 5 part-time teachers, 1 full-time teaching assistant and 9 part-time support staff.

The Headteacher has been in post since January 2007 and is supported by two assistant Headteachers,

The school identifies 8.9% of pupils as having an additional learning need. Around 13% of pupils are eligible for free school meals.

12 pupils (5.3%) have English as an additional language.

No pupil speaks Welsh as a first language.

No pupils have been excluded from school during the last twelve months leading up to the inspection.

As at the beginning of the inspection, no child has been withdrawn from Religious Education or Collective Worship.

The original school building was extended and remodelled in 1992. The school is both well appointed and maintained, with maximum use made of available space and resources. Classrooms are a good size with adjacent wet areas for practical activities. The school is situated in attractive grounds with a grassed and wooded area to the front of the school, playgrounds to the rear and a good sized field at the side.

The school was inspected by Estyn at the same time as the Section 50 inspection.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St. Peter's as a Church in Wales school are excellent

St. Peter's Church in Wales Primary School is a happy, warm and welcoming Christian place of learning with a strong and established ethos of love, care and mutual respect for one another evident across the school. It aims to serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. The school aims to provide stimulating and meaningful learning experiences in which Christian values are central to all aspects of school life.

Pupils are well supported by all adults to reach their full potential, develop a positive self-image and recognise their uniqueness in God's eyes. There is a busy and energetic atmosphere within the school which is reflected in the positive behaviour, attitude and performance of all pupils. The school encourages all pupils to develop as kind, caring and tolerant individuals who will have the courage, determination and ability to face any challenges which may come their way on the journey to becoming the special person God has planned for them to be.

Pupils value their membership of the school family and enjoy learning. They feel safe and well cared for and are given numerous opportunities to contribute to their learning experiences. Most pupils express their opinions and feelings confidently.

The school encourages and develops the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of all pupils across all areas of the curriculum as well as through Religious Education. Collective Worship also makes significant contributions to the life and Christian ethos of the school. Children are given opportunities to worship God, reflect on the school's core Christian values and use the Bible to guide them in their work and lives. St.Peter's aims to develop an appreciation and understanding of the Christian faith whilst also respecting those of other faiths and cultures.

There are good and developing links between the school and the parish church and the community it serves. Leaders, staff and governors share a clear vision and commitment to further develop this status. The contribution of the Vicar, Curate and Bishop's Visitor to the school highlight a meaningful and effective partnership of service to the community.

The school has a very good relationship with parents and guardians who are very supportive of the school.

There are clear indicators to visitors that this is a Church in Wales School with signs, symbols, displays and artefacts in entrances, classrooms and communal areas. The prospectus, documentation and website also make its Church School status clear.

Established strengths

- The Christian vision and leadership of the Headteacher which is well supported by staff and governors.
- Christian values are embedded in the school's ethos and permeate all aspects of school life.
- Collective Worship makes an important contribution to the children's understanding of how Christian values can impact positively on their lives.
- The caring, respectful and inclusive nature of the school and the support given to all pupils in order for them to achieve their full potential.

Focus for development

- To become familiar with the Religious Education content within the New Curriculum for Wales draft documents and begin evaluation of how planning and teaching will need to develop.
- To further develop and embed the role of pupils in the process of planning, delivery and evaluation of Collective Worship.
- To develop a space within the school grounds into an inspirational area which pupils and staff may use for prayer and reflection.
- To further develop links between the school, church and local community by inviting members of those communities to take part in aspects of school life.

The prospects for Improvement in the future are good

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

The contribution of Religious Education to the Christian Character of the school is good

St. Peter's Church in Wales Primary School has a strong and embedded Christian ethos that underpins all aspects of school life and impacts positively on the wellbeing and development of all stakeholders. The school aims to serve its pupils by providing an education of the highest quality while ensuring equal access to a curriculum that reflects the issues and needs of a diverse society. In accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales, learning experiences help to reinforce pupils' understanding of the importance of contributing to the life of the whole community. Considerable emphasis is given in promoting a sense of belonging and developing positive values and attitudes.

Children demonstrate pride in their school and community. They are happy, polite, well motivated and keen to learn and achieve. All pupils are encouraged to take an active role in their learning and

contribute to to their learning experiences. They demonstrate curiosity and are encouraged to discuss and reflect regularly. They share opinions and ideas and talk about how people with different beliefs, cultures and religions can live alongside each other. Older pupils show a caring and thoughtful attitude towards younger pupils.

A particularly strong feature of the school is its close family ethos where love and mutual respect for one another are clearly evident. St. Peter's is an inclusive Christian learning community in which pupils feel secure and well supported. Every child is identified as being equally important and unique; clearly valued and given a specific focus to develop their own potential within a caring and stimulating learning environment regardless of ability, race or gender. The family atmosphere is positively enhanced by respectful relationships between all pupils and members of staff. There is a clear focus on pastoral care. Pupils are nurtured within a praise culture and are well supported by all staff. The school is keen to celebrate the success of individuals. Children receive attention and praise not only for aspects of good work and behaviour, but also for other aspects of achievement. For example, for showing care or consideration towards others or achieving a personal milestone. Sharing the news of the pupils' God given talents is recognised and celebrated.

Christian values are at the heart of all that the school sets out to achieve and permeate all aspects of its daily life. These values have not only had a significant impact on the development of the school as a Church in Wales School, but have also had a positive impact on the attitudes and behaviour of the children. They behave very well and consistently show respect, care and consideration towards others. They are confident, enthusiastic towards learning and courteous and welcoming towards visitors.

There are clear indicators to visitors that this is a Church in Wales School. Signs display the school's name and status. The school's values, aims and Mission Statement are displayed around the school, on the school website, in the prospectus and on all correspondence. Attractive and informative displays promote the school's Christian nature. 100% of parents who responded to the questionnaire were aware of the school's Church status.

Each classroom has a designated area with a Christian focus with values, artefacts, symbols, prayers and examples of work on display to encourage pupils to demonstrate their commitment to the school's Christian ethos. The interior accommodation does not make it easy for reflective areas within each classroom. However, a communal area, known as the "Round House" is available for quiet prayer and reflection.

St. Peter's has very good links with Christ Church, Rossett. The Vicar, Curate and Bishop's Visitor visit the school regularly to lead and participate in worship and advise on aspects of R.E. and worship. All play important roles in nurturing and developing links between the school, church, local community and Diocese. Their contributions to the life of the school are highly valued. Pupils visit the church as planned features of the R.E. curriculum and to celebrate important church festivals and services e.g. Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. The school has very active school choirs which have taken part in a range of community events such as the Rossett Christmas tree lighting ceremony and the local horticultural show. The choirs also entertained local senior citizens with a Christmas concert. This event provided an opportunity to develop links with the local community and promote intergenerational relationships.

A significant occasion held at the school was an Easter Prayer Event, organised by the Foundation Phase Religious Education co-ordinator. Parents, children, teachers and members of the local community were among those in attendance. The event consisted of 12 different different stations. Participants were invited to take part in thought provoking activities which aimed to show that prayer is not always a quiet, contemplative experience. Opportunities were provided for children to pray and communicate with God in a variety of ways while some stations encouraged them to think about Jesus and the Easter story.

St. Peter's effectively promotes the children's understanding of sustainable development, fair trade, global citizenship, healthy living, recycling and the stewardship of God's earth.

Pupils show compassion and a strong commitment to helping others. The school is committed to supporting a range of charities annually. These have included Nightingale House Hospice, Red Nose Day, Marie Curie Cancer, Children in Need, The Poppy Appeal and The Wrexham Standards Appeal.

The School Council and Eco Committee are actively involved with developments in the school. Members of these committees work enthusiastically when considering important issues that impact on the daily life of all members of the school family. The school's Eco school focus, coupled with the ESDGC curriculum, provides opportunities for celebrating the festivals of other cultures and religions and learning about the lives of others in different parts of the world.

The school's strong Christian ethos, supported by clearly defined Christian values, has a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic development of all its learners.

All statutory requirements for Religious Education are met in full.

There are two Religious Education co-ordinators – one within the Foundation Phase and the other at K.S. 2.

Religious Education has a high profile within the school curriculum. As a result of using sources such as the Effective Learning/Shirley Clarke programmes, the school has ensured that R.E. has the same focus for improvement as all other subjects. Lessons are delivered as part of the regular weekly timetable and provision is monitored by the Headteacher and both R.E. co-ordinators as part of the school's planned monitoring cycle. Religious Education is provided in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus and has been supplemented by using resources from the Cardiff Diocese. The long term scheme of work was developed by the Headteacher and co-ordinators with the support of the Bishop's Visitor who have ensured appropriate continuity and progression within the scheme.

Thorough and detailed planning strategies make the most of appropriate and relevant cross curricular links. The school's Christian values are also incorporated into planning strategies, together with links to the Church year. Planning also includes a high focus on Literacy and Numeracy and the DCF is also included. Information Technology is used well and imaginatively.

The school's planning procedures incorporate a range of teaching and learning styles which aim to enthuse and engage pupils and provide a stimulating and challenging learning environment for children to learn. Pupils throughout the school show interest in Religious Education and have positive attitudes towards the subject. They listen attentively and display a good knowledge of the key aspects of Christianity and the Bible. Children are curious; are encouraged to ask questions, reflect upon the meaning and messages they have heard and consider how these have had an impact on their lives. The majority of pupils are focused and stay on task, talking confidently about their knowledge and understanding of the subject. Opportunities for peer assessment are as applicable to Religious Education as to other subjects. Pupils have used technology to record, share and peer/self assess their work. Recent visits from the Bishop's Visitor have involved collaborative book scrutinies and "listening to learner" sessions as well as learning walks around the school.

Opportunities to extend Religious Education provision outside of the classroom are well utilised. Christ Church is visited as a place for special celebrations and as an effective resource to promote stimulating teaching in R.E. As a result, pupils have developed a good understanding of the status of the church and how it contributes to the life of the school and the local community.

Whilst maintaining its strong Christian ethos and focus, St. Peter's encourages pupils to understand other religious beliefs, traditions and cultures. The school respects other people's views and celebrates diversity in society.

Religious Education provision is well supported by a range of good quality resources.

Religious Education makes an important contribution to the life and work of St. Peter's Church in Wales Primary School and to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its pupils.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good

Collective Worship at St. Peter's Church in Wales School meets all statutory requirements.

The Headteacher is the Collective Worship co-ordinator. Worship provision is reviewed in accordance with the school's monitoring timetable. All members of the teaching staff regularly lead worship.

Collective Worship is delivered on a daily basis and follows a distinctly Christian structure. Over the course of a week pupils have the opportunity to worship together as a class, a department and as a whole school. Worship is a special occasion and provides a central focus for the school day, providing a valuable opportunity for pupils and staff to come together as a Christian family. The school endeavours to ensure that the principles for all acts are inclusive, spiritual and educational. As a result, worship makes a significant contribution to the Christian ethos of the school. Acts of worship also include celebrations of other faiths and cultures. These acts of worship are always underpinned by the school's Christian values.

Christian values are at the heart of the school and all that it aims to achieve. These values are reflected in its Collective Worship provision. Worship is thoughtfully planned and themes are balanced to include the school's core values and observation of the cycle of the Christian year. Innovative and meaningful use of the "Roots and Fruits" resource helps to support and enhance these themes and provides cohesion and structure to worship.

Christian values and teachings are also highlighted through Bible stories, helping to increase pupils' understanding of how and why they are important. Children are encouraged to model their behaviour and attitudes on these scriptures and relate them to their own lives where possible. Worship provides pupils with opportunities to share their thoughts and reflect on God's teachings.

Acts of worship reflect broad Anglican traditions. Anglican responses are used at the beginning and end of worship. The Christian ethos of the school is reflected in the provision of a visual focal point. Three candles are lit to signify the beginning of worship. The candles remind pupils of the presence of God. The children understand that these three candles represent The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit – The Holy Trinity. Pupils are also aware of the significance of God represented as the light of the world. Children are respectful and prepare for worship by entering the hall quietly, sometimes listening to music. Pupils listen well and participate enthusiastically when invited to do so. They have regular opportunities to lead and participate in worship during weekly worship and at key times in the Christian calendar. They read passages from the Bible and use a variety of prayers and affirmations including The Lord's Prayer and The Grace/Y Gras. Pupils often read their own contributions and sometimes compose their own prayers which they share with the school community. Older pupils are well established and confident in delivering worship to Foundation Phase pupils, particularly through the "Jack in a box" – a part of the Roots and Fruits resource. Opportunities are often given to other groups within the school to lead worship or prayers (e.g. the Eco Committee and Bible Club). Pupils sing well and with obvious pleasure, appreciating singing as a special form of prayer. Pupils are given time to reflect on the message of worship at the end of every act of worship.

Worship focuses on important moments in the life of the school and the community. Success, individuality and diversity are celebrated appropriately. The school reflects and acknowledges the achievements and celebrations of all its pupils. Gold star awards are distributed at the end of Friday worship as a recognition of good work, behaviour or individual success.

The school has good links with Christ Church and pupils lead worship at the church at important times in the church calendar – e.g. Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Parents and members of the community are invited to these events. Visitors make important contributions to the provision and development of worship. The Vicar, Curate and Bishop's Visitor visit regularly, helping pupils to gain a wider perspective of the importance of sharing faith and values and recognising that there are different styles of delivering worship.

St. Peter's makes good use of the Welsh language during worship in prayers, songs, responses and instructions. A clear focus is paid to celebrating important occasions in Welsh Christian history and culture. This focus is also evident through careful planning within Religious Education provision. The school is committed to further develop the Welsh dimension through Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The school has a good range of resources to support worship. Good use is made of relevant displays, music and artefacts to promote interest and understanding. Every opportunity is used to ensure that acts of worship are interactive when appropriate.

St. Peter's has a positive and embedded process of Collective Worship that is relevant to the aims, needs, development and Christian ethos of the school and contributes significantly to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all its pupils.

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

St. Peter's Church in Wales Primary School is very well led by the Headteacher who is at the forefront of the drive to promote the school's development as a Church school. She has a clear Christian vision for the school, high expectations and has set a clear strategic direction for moving the school forward. The inclusion of the Section 50 PIAP alongside the Estyn PIAP reflects its importance as an integral focus for school development. The Headteacher has ensured that the Christian ethos of the school has been communicated and modelled effectively to pupils, staff, parents and visitors alike. All stakeholders share this vision and work very well together to promote the Christian nature, values and development of the school.

As Collective Worship co-ordinator, the Headteacher has worked closely with the two Religious Education co-ordinators in developing provision and ensuring that R.E. has the same status as all other core subjects. The R.E. curriculum is informed by the same distinctive Christian values as Collective Worship provision. Both key aspects contribute positively to learners' good behaviour and positive attitudes to learning.

The Headteacher works effectively with the Diocese and other local Church in Wales schools to discuss developments in key issues. She also ensures that the professional development requirements of all members of staff are considered and prioritised when required. Staff are advised and encouraged to attend relevant courses. In return, staff are enthusiastic to attend professional opportunities and school events.

All members of staff are involved in the strategic planning processes of the school and strive to provide the best education for all pupils in order that they can achieve their full potential. They are

all supportive of the aims and direction of the school and work very effectively as a united team. The ethos is one where all pupils are cared for in a safe, respectful, loving and happy learning environment through the promotion of agreed core Christian values.

The school is proactive in promoting links with the church and local community. The church plays an important part in the life of the school. During special times of the Christian year, pupils and staff take part in and lead services at Christ Church. This focuses on the significance and strength of the Christian character of the school and its close bond with the church. It helps to strengthen pupils' understanding of the school's commitment to the church family. The school has worked to strengthen links with the community by organising a variety of events. Arrangements were made for local senior citizens to visit school and share in activities with the children. These included art and craft sessions and a carol concert/tea party.

The school recognises the importance of developing close partnerships with parent and guardians, who are very supportive. As a result, communication and involvement in school life is encouraged. Parents are appreciative of the school's "open door" policy and feel comfortable and confident to meet with staff when necessary. Parents and guardians are invited to events such as curriculum information evenings, meet the teacher sessions and parents' evenings. The school ensures that parents are kept fully informed about their child's progress. Religious Education and other important issues have a clear focus in written reports and parents' evenings. The Parent-Teacher Association is well supported and has raised significant funds for the school ensuring that additional opportunities and resources have been provided for all pupils.

The Governing Body have a very good understanding of the nature, purpose and vision of a Church in Wales school. Governors are enthusiastic, challenging and keen to develop further. They are extremely supportive of the school and work effectively to ensure that its continued development is a high priority. The Chair of Governors and other governors are a regular presence in the school and contribute positively to the life of the school – helping to maintain and improve standards and offering support, advice and encouragement at all times. Issues regarding Religious Education, Collective Worship and other relevant aspects of provision are reported to the Governing Body through the Ethos and Wellbeing sub committee and are also included in detail in the termly Headteacher report to Governors.

St. Peter's Church in Wales Primary School is very well led and managed with a clearly articulated vision for the future. The Headteacher, staff and Governing Body work effectively together to promote and develop the Christian ethos and values of the school for the benefit of all its pupils.

The school has fulfilled the recommendations from the last Section 50 inspection in 2016.

The content of this report should be considered alongside the Estyn team's Section 28 report. I would like to thank the Estyn inspection team for their cooperation. I would also like to thank the Headteacher, Staff, Governors and Pupils of St. Peter's for their warm welcome and cooperation.

Mr. Neil C. Roberts B.Ed.

Report under Section 50 of the Education Act 2005
St. Peter's V.C. School - Parents' Questionnaire
There were 57 responses

	Yes	NO
Are you aware that this is a church school?	57	-
Do you believe that the school is a caring institution built upon clear Christian values?	55	2
This is a Church School, that is a school with a Christian character. Was this a factor when you were choosing a school for your child/children?	29	28

	Agree				
	1	2	3	4	5
The school has a distinctive Christian character	35	15	5	2	-
The school's distinctive Christian character makes a significant contribution to pupils' education.	32	14	6	3	2
Pupils find Collective Worship a valuable experience.	23	18	10	5	1*
The school has effective links with the local church and other faith communities.	43	10	2	1	1
The school keeps parents well informed about the work pupils do in Religious Education.	27	19	6	3	2
The school encourages pupils to care for God's Creation (the environment), as well as for themselves.	46	7	2	1	1*
The school encourages pupils to consider people in other countries , and how they can help assist them, when help is required.	37	15	3	2	-
The school ensures that links are made with the local community.	49	5	2	-	1

PLEASE NOTE : 1* response was DID NOT KNOW.

