

**Teversham Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Church Road  
Teversham  
Cambridge.  
CB1 9AZ

**Diocese: Ely**

Local authority: Cambridgeshire  
Dates of inspection: 29 September 2011  
Date of last inspection: 22 May 2008  
School's unique reference number: 110834  
Headteacher: Elizabeth Jenkin  
Inspector's name and number: Marion Betts 220

**School context**

Teversham school is a primary school for children 4 to 11 years with 145 pupils on roll. The school is situated close to its church. The school serves the village, but some parents from outside the immediate area choose the school due to its church school ethos. All pupils are taught in mixed-age classes except the Reception children.

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Teversham C of E VA School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

The Christian foundation is prominently featured around the school, and reflected in the school's values. It is demonstrated by the caring relationships between all members of the community. The values taught impact very effectively on pupils' actions, behaviour and attitudes. Vibrant RE (religious education) teaching and learning powerfully contributes to the church school status and is regarded highly by staff and pupils.

**Established strengths**

- The explicitly Christian values which impact positively on pupils' personal development
- The highly effective and much enjoyed RE teaching and learning
- The very effective leadership of the senior staff which strongly influences the distinctiveness of the Church school ethos.
- Very good relationships of respect and care within the school community

**Focus for development**

- Develop pupils as worship leaders to plan and prepare their own acts of worship.
- Create a quiet inter-active space within school for pupils to reflect and pray
- Visit a variety of places of worship including those of other faiths.

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

Pupils are proud of their school, and enjoy learning about the school's explicitly Christian values. These are linked to Scripture passages. Pupils describe how these values impact on the whole school community and on their own personal attitudes and behaviours. For example learning about community has encouraged their team spirit when working together.

Pupils are also highly appreciative of the care of the adults who make lessons fun, get to know each child, listen to them and help with their problems. For example when their carer was late, two pupils voiced their praise for the teachers who stayed with them until early evening. Parents of children who have experienced problems highly praise the strong pastoral care of the school. Relationships and respect between pupils and staff are very

good. The school is characterised by praise used effectively and the creation of a positive sense of well-being.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. Pupils behave very well and develop positive attitudes to learning. They have a clear concern for the needs of others demonstrated by their enthusiastic fund-raising activities, for example for a new school in India. They are aware of their responsibility to care for the environment, emphasised by an active eco committee, gardening club and discussing conservation linked to RE harvest learning. Pupils enthusiastically undertake care for younger pupils, for example as Young Leaders and Peer Mentors.

The spiritual development of pupils is enhanced well by attractive displays around school and the peaceful spaces in the school's attractive grounds. At present there is no permanent indoor quiet area.

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

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is described by pupils and staff to be an important and interesting time when the school's Christian foundation and values are affirmed. Staff and pupils also appreciate the calm, quiet time of reflection given during each worship session.

Worship is planned thoroughly and linked to the liturgical seasons and main festivals which are celebrated in church. This, with the regular pattern of liturgy, promotes pupils' knowledge of the Anglican faith. Worship elements include an attractive visual focus, story, (often from the Bible), liturgical responses and Christian based songs. The school and Lord's prayers are prominently displayed. Pupils write their own prayers and are developing an understanding of the range and purposes of prayer, for example they linked sorry prayers to the value of forgiveness.

Worship makes a powerful contribution to defining pupils' attitudes and linking these to a Christian context. All pupils enjoy worship. They act respectfully and behave well Pupils contribute to worship through instrument playing, enthusiastic singing and presenting their own drama to illustrate the theme. They would appreciate more involvement in planning and preparing their own acts of worship. Worship is enhanced by imaginative delivery and dramatic presentations. Pupils experience a variety of worship styles. For example one of the ministers from the village free church leads worship once a week. Worship is evaluated by staff, governors, parents and pupils on a regular basis and improvements made as a result.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

RE has a very high profile in the school. Its special status is demonstrated by whole school involvement in planning; interesting visual presentations and artefacts; creative cross-curriculum practical activities; and thought-provoking questioning. The subject leader inspires the whole school to give of their best. Staff and pupils immensely enjoy the RE days and speak of them as memorable occasions. Teaching observed during the inspection related to learning about Harvest. This took place in the church and used interactive displays for pupils to examine and learn. Pupils then made their own clay pots as examples of the use of the earth's resources.

All pupils receive consistently high quality teaching, much of which is linked to adults' own experiences such as photographs of a teacher's visit to a Buddhist temple. Visits to other faith places of worship are not yet undertaken. Visitors and members of the local community are invited to share in the RE days. Parents and pupils of other faiths contribute to the learning about their traditions and beliefs. RE contributes powerfully to pupils' spiritual and moral development. Reflection time was given for pupils to apply the learning to their own attitudes and experiences.

The school bases its teaching on the Cambridgeshire Agreed RE Syllabus which is fully covered. Assessments of pupils' learning are made through pupils sharing their thoughts, opinions and feelings and the quality of outcomes. Pupils achieve very well and have a good understanding of the Christian faith and knowledge of other faiths. The RE learning was linked extremely well to the school's next day Harvest service in church.

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

The inspiring leadership of the headteacher with the very effective support of the RE subject leader powerfully directs the Christian vision of the school. She personally sets the tone of Christian care and concern for others which pervades the life of the school. All staff understand and are committed to the school's expectation of their role in this Christian community. They feel appreciated for their work and are very supportive of each other both professionally and personally. Governors are well informed, supportive and regularly evaluate worship and church school ethos by observation visits during which they seek the views of pupils.

The school is characterised by staff's good team work, inclusivity and a positive sense of well-being. There is a wide range of extra activities provided including a Bible study club led by ministers from the village free church.

Pupils and parents are aware of the Christian foundation through this being explicit around the building, through the church links, and through the high profile RE days. The school has a positive relationship with the diocese. The bishop intends to visit soon to join the school in celebrating its 150 years' existence. Parents appreciate the approachability of the staff who meet them daily on the playground. The school has effective links with the pre-school on site and invites parents, parishioners and local elderly to special events. The school is regarded as the centre of village life.