



## Judgement Recording Form (NSJRF)

*This form is to be attached to the main SIAS report and returned to the diocese in which the school is situated and to the National Society.*

### Powick Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

42 Malvern Road

Powick

Worcester

WR2 4RT

**Diocese: Worcester**

LA: Worcestershire

Schools Unique reference number: 116841

Dates of Inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012

NS Inspector's Number: 300

Type of Church school: (Voluntary Controlled)

Number of pupils: 196

Phase of education: (Primary)

**Has Diocesan Quality Assurance been obtained for this report? Yes**

**Rating 1-4**

How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?	1
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How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?	1
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What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?	1
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How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?	1
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The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship	Yes
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The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education *	NA
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\* Voluntary Aided Schools

*(delete appropriate word)*

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Powick Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

#### Diocese: Worcester

LA: Worcestershire

Date of inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012

Date of last inspection: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Schools Unique reference number: 116841

Headteacher: Mr Richard Drewett

Inspectors Name and number: Mrs Susan Helps 300

#### School Context

Powick Church of England Primary School is a very popular and highly successful Voluntary Controlled rural school with 196 pupils set in the village of Powick between Malvern and Worcester. The majority of the pupils are of white British heritage, with a very small number of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds. The school has very close links with the local church and is valued by its community. The building has been sensitively modernised but retains the intimacy of a small Victorian school. A forest school on the adjoining Parish Playing Field ensures the children have ample opportunity to experience outdoor activity.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Powick CE Primary School as a Church Of England School are outstanding.

All stakeholders can clearly articulate the Christian values that underpin the work of the school where everyone is encouraged to 'treat others as you would hope to be treated yourself'. The children trust the staff team to care for them and parents feel that their children are privileged to be in a school where they flourish as valued individuals. Relationships are outstanding both among the children, between the children and staff, the staff and the foundation governors and the parish priest. The relaxed atmosphere that pervades the school means the children express themselves honestly, knowing that 'they can be true to who they are'. Parents recognise and value ways in which staff 'go the extra mile' for children who may be vulnerable or who may be dealing with personal tragedy.

#### Established strengths

- The outstanding quality of relationships between all those connected with the school, the exemplary behaviour of the children and the care and support shown across the school community
- The curriculum where music and the arts are used creatively to link religious education, personal, social, health education and spiritual, moral and cultural education
- The leadership of the head teacher and the support he receives from the staff, parish priest, governors and parents in developing his vision of a Christian school that celebrates its place at the heart of the village.
- Collective worship where depth of spirituality is achieved by children across all ages

#### Focus for development

- Continue to develop opportunities to link with those of other world faiths and establish meaningful partnerships.

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

Learners are very proud of their school and those who have moved from other schools talk positively about the welcome they received. Regardless of their ability children at Powick are well supported both academically and spiritually. Children across all year groups form close friendships with one another and the care which older children show to their younger peers, for example, supporting them on the long walk to church, is exceptional. The school council were clear about the Christian values that underpin the ethos where kindness, forgiveness and fairness are demonstrated by everyone associated with the school. The extensively developed outdoor area is easily accessible to the children allowing them to explore, care for the environment and relish the 'beauty of God's world'. This significantly enhances pupils' spiritual development. Powick is an outward looking school with children and parents valuing the many opportunities provided by teachers for them to go out into the wider world. Teachers spontaneously arrange exciting, varied activities that enrich the children's learning with visits and visitors being a regular feature of each school term, for example visits to a synagogue, the Symphony Hall and Malvern Priory. The curriculum capitalises on cross curricular links, with music, sport and the performing arts being

particular strengths enabling children to use their many 'God given gifts' to be successful and achieve their potential. Many of the children have specific responsibilities, for example as House Captains, School Council Members, Energy Monitors, Library Monitors and ICT Monitors and they wear their badges with pride. The children's willingness to support the staff in creating a school where everyone is encouraged to play an important part was celebrated by foundation governors who attended the Harvest service. The church, classrooms, corridors and shared areas have displays that celebrate the children's work or support worship, for example the leaves, flower arrangements and art work displayed for the Harvest service. The children shared their pride in this work by showing displays to parents who had joined them for the Harvest service. Parents speak very highly of the school seeing it as a 'rock' for children coping with personal tragedy. The school has regularly attended diocesan events such as 'J.C. Today' and is also involved in Family Services at the local church. The school supports local, national and international charities, embraces cultures beyond the school and celebrates the diversity of other faiths. This is evident when talking to children in Year 6 who are able to relate the concept of love to a variety of different world religions. Religious education (RE) prompts discussions that extend beyond the school with children continuing at home theological debates which started in lessons.

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

Children understand the purpose of prayer. This was exemplified during the inspection by a Year 6 pupil who said that she liked to pray as it helped her to feel peaceful. Worship is regarded positively by all learners and a visit to the local church for the annual Harvest Festival was very well supported by a high number of parents, governors and members of the local congregation. Worship is planned around themes and Christian values and a core scheme is adapted creatively to link with the children's interests and other world faiths. The structure of worship is based on an Anglican tradition that is clearly understood by children of all ages. Psalms and Blessings feature in worship and services enabling children to become familiar with the structure of worship in church. The influence of the parish priest and other members of the church community on the content and quality of collective worship is outstanding. The parish priest and, latterly, members of the church community, regularly lead school based worship and lay readers lead the worship for Harvest. Children clearly enjoy coming together for worship. They write and read prayers, sing enthusiastically and create atmospheric music which enhances the spiritual element of worship and extends to other aspects of school life. For example, members of the school council noted that in assembly they hear the Bible stories that help them understand how to be a good person. The children value the use of a candle as a focus for prayer and reflection. The support parents give their children to learn the Lord's Prayer prior to starting school ensures that even the very youngest children can recite the prayer as part of worship. An impressive number of staff lead school based assemblies and all staff are welcome to join in, with some coming in to work early so that they can attend. The older children prepare assemblies each half term and plan their contributions around the school theme. The children regularly evaluate the worship and make suggestions about how things could be improved for example asking that seats for assemblies be considered. There is excellent understanding amongst children of why worship is an important part of the life of the school. They say 'we pray, we make a silence, it is a time to come together'.

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

The head teacher, through his clear vision, has established a 'Christian school at the heart of the village'. Supported by an excellent subject leader for worship and R.E. and a highly committed staff team, the Christian ethos permeates the school at every level. Investment in continual professional development for staff through the Diocese ensures that all teaching staff have excellent R.E. subject knowledge with Powick supporting other schools with teaching and learning in this area of the curriculum. The parish priest and foundation governors strongly support the staff, with foundation governors speaking of the high standards of pupil behaviour on their regular visits into school. The chair of governors leads a governing body that values the breadth of provision on offer at the school and clearly appreciates the impact the Christian ethos has on the children. The governors' involvement in the life of the school, for example setting the head teacher's performance management targets, ensures they steer the strategic direction of the school and clearly understand their responsibilities within a Church of England school. The views of parents on the school's distinctive Christian character are sought regularly through questionnaires and all school documentation promotes the school's Christian status. Rigorous, detailed and reflective self evaluation means that the school accurately understands where it needs to develop further. Pupil voice is a continual thread through all self evaluation and the views of the children have helped to influence the direction of the school. All members of staff provide excellent Christian role models

for learners and the close relationships they have enrich the school by providing mutual support and pastoral care. The school's links with the community and the local church ensures it is continually evolving as a distinctively Christian school. The close links that exist with the local community and the church ensures that the school is very much at the heart of the village.

SIAS report October, Powick C.E. (VC) Primary School, Powick, Worcester.