

**Morville Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Bridgnorth  
Shropshire  
WV16 4RL

**Diocese of Hereford**

Shropshire LEA

SIAS inspection: 10 February 2006

Previous S23 inspection: 19<sup>th</sup> March & 24<sup>th</sup> April 2001

URN: 893/3078

Headteacher: Mrs. B. Williams

Chair of Governors: Mr. J. Smith

SIAS Inspector NS: Mr Robin Sharples

**Context**

Morville C.E. Primary School is a 53 pupil school in a rural situation located on the main road from Bridgnorth to Ludlow. The children in the school are all white British and drawn from both the immediate locality and from disparate communities outside the nominal catchment area

**Summary Judgement**

Morville is an excellent school in which pupils are challenged to achieve their full potential and are given the tools and support to make this achievement a reality.

**Established Strengths**

- The work of the headteacher in establishing, promoting and sustaining a tangible Christian ethos which is well conceived and understood by the children and parents.
- The respectful enthusiasm of the children in all areas of school life.
- Engaging and powerful worship.

**Focus for development**

- Careful use of the National Society Tool-kit to draw together the school's own perceptions and ideas in order to place them against a nationally defined framework as an in-service training activity for Governors and staff.
- A revision of the prospectus so that it does justice to the outstanding work being done in the school in the context of its Church Foundation.
- Establish a pattern of regular agenda items to allow Governors to review and re-examine the Christian (Anglican) foundation of the school in order to support and subsequently develop the Headteacher's carefully conceived vision of the Christian ethos of the school.

**The Christian character of Morville C.E. School provides the basis from which the staff are able to meet the needs of learners in an outstanding way.**

During the inspection the children of the school were very clear that they are in an environment which is explicitly designed to meet their needs as learners and as whole people. The children's excellent relationships with the staff enable their needs to be met in very specific ways. The work of children is celebrated in some

delightful displays of high quality, evidenced in the children's pride in their own achievements and celebration of the achievements of others. The school makes great efforts to provide a wide range of activities (alongside statutory provision) for the children in its care so that all aptitudes and abilities are catered for, such as fitness club, yogabugs, and wide ranging artwork. Given the ethnicity of the school's intake the balance of multi-cultural and multi-faith work in the school is exceptional, enabling the children to see themselves in a global context. Recent work on Islam, in response to children's questions concerning current world events demonstrates an excellent and sensitive response to learner's needs. The children speak freely of the school as a spiritual place and understand their role in the school as supporting and encouraging their peers – one of the children spoke of the Morville being a 'helping school'.

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

Worship as a response to God permeates the life of the school as a whole. This is focused in the act of worship where various aspects such as song, stillness, prayer, story and objects are combined in ways which directly capture the attention of the children. The local vicar is involved in worship at festivals in the local church, these festivals and the use of The Lord's Prayer assure that aspects of distinctively Anglican practice are reflected in the school. The children view worship as a very significant part of the school life and enjoy being involved through reading or playing musical instruments. Weekly 'citizenship' awards enrich the life of the school, citizenship is seen within the school community as being a gift of God, as was said during observed worship 'it is through God's power that we are good citizens'.

**The R.E. in the school contributes strongly to the spiritual atmosphere of the school.**

In the lessons seen there were genuine moments of spiritual reflection and awareness – these came from the children's own responses – a clear demonstration of the impact of the school's ethos on the learners in its care. The children are able to create links between their work in R.E. and worship in school. The current development in R.E. progression shows a great deal of imagination in integrating religious themes within other subjects, in practice this has the effect of bringing a substantial spiritual dimension into classwork.

**The leadership and management of the school as a church school are outstanding.**

The headteacher is exceptional in her efforts to lead the school. She has very clearly worked out ideas as exemplified in the school's vision statement and she works hard to bring her vision into reality. The staff provide exceptional support and the parents reflect the school's self evaluation that this vision is a significant element in their choice of the school. Parents speak of the spiritual qualities of the school and in particular the personal qualities of the headteacher. The headteacher's care in formulating policy and in organising curriculum development in recent terms has led to a coherent pattern of work in the school which is actively supported and underpinned by the work of the Governors. While the Christian ethos of the school is well understood by those involved in the management of the school this ethos must be clearly defined and reviewed regularly in order for this outstanding performance to be maintained.

