

Ixworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	124704
Local Authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	281784
Inspection dates	24–25 May 2006
Reporting inspector	Mrs. Jacqueline Marshall

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school	First
School category	Voluntary controlled
Age range of pupils	3–9
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr. Jim Wolf
	Mrs. Clare Moore
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Crown Lane
	IP31 2EL
Telephone number	01359 230228
Fax number	01359 230352

Age group	3–9
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

Ixworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a smaller than average first school. The mainly White British school population, drawn from a wide range of village backgrounds, has an average number of pupils entitled to free school meals. Attainment on entry to education is average overall. Whilst the proportion of pupils in the school with learning difficulties and disabilities is generally average, it is above the national average in the current Year 2 and 4 classes.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade:

What the school should do to improve further

- Continue to raise achievement through a more consistent approach to marking and target-setting so pupils know exactly what they need to do. - Raise standards in writing even further by ensuring that pupils use the skills they have learnt when writing in other subjects.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Teachers plan interesting and relevant activities for pupils' differing needs, increasingly considering how best pupils learn. This and the good relationships between pupils and adults are key factors in pupils' positive attitudes to learning and good achievement. In lessons pupils are encouraged to work independently, think for themselves and give reasons for their answers. Behaviour, particularly where pupils have particular difficulties, is managed well by all adults so that the learning of other pupils is not disrupted. Where pupils make the best progress teachers give clear instructions and explanations which are supported by effective marking so that pupils know just what is expected of them. This good practice has yet to become consistent and, as a result, pupils are not always clear from teachers' marking of the next steps in their learning and how they can improve. The work of classroom assistants is good because they know the individual needs of pupils and adapt their approaches to them accordingly. All pupils enjoy lessons because they have very good relationships with adults and find the work interesting.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

Pupils enjoy a good, well-planned curriculum, enriched by additional activities, including swimming and a range of well attended extra-curricular activities. Personal, social and health education, including opportunities for pupils to discuss sensitive issues and for parents to be involved alongside their children, supports pupils' overall development well. A strong emphasis is placed on learning through first hand practical experiences. In the Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classes the recently developed engaging environment promotes learning through play and results in children making good progress. The school has a well thought-out approach to visits and visitors, which increasingly not only supports classroom learning but fosters pupils' positive attitudes. The curriculum develops pupils' basic skills well, particularly with the school's focus on writing over the last year. However, some opportunities to reinforce their literacy skills are missed when writing in other subjects. As a result the quality of pupils' written work in other subjects does not always match that seen in English lessons.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

This is a caring school which welcomes all children, whatever their needs, a view held by the overwhelmingly majority of pupils and parents. Child protection and health and safety procedures are well understood and any pupils who are at risk are quickly identified and supported well. Pupils say that they feel safe and know who to turn to if necessary. Support for pupils with learning difficulties is well planned and outside agencies and parents are involved effectively. Effective procedures for checking pupils' progress are rapidly becoming embedded in everyday practice. The information gained is being used well by teachers when planning further work and increasingly in order to provide pupils with challenging targets. Where marking is particularly effective, pupils are given a very good idea of how to further improve their work. The school is aware of the need to develop more opportunities to involve pupils in checking how well they are doing and knowing the next steps in their learning.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Annex B**Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection**

Ixworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School Crown Lane Ixworth Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 2EL 26 May 2006 Dear Children Thank you for talking to us and showing us your work when we visited your school. We are pleased to hear that you like school and that the grown-ups are kind and look after you well. We think that they help you to know just what you have to do to keep safe and healthy. We were happy to hear that there are plenty of things for you to enjoy at playtimes and lots of exciting things to take part in, such as the Art day, Science Week and your different clubs. We think you are polite to adults and behave well. In order to make your learning even better, we have asked the adults at your school to: - make sure they are helping you to know what you need to do to improve your work. - make sure you can practise your writing skills in other subjects as well as literacy. Thank you again for helping us with our work. Yours faithfully Mrs J Marshall Lead inspector