



## Section 50 Inspection of Church in Wales Schools Report

### **Peterston super Ely Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Heol Llanbedr,  
Peterston super Ely,  
Vale of Glamorgan.  
CF5 6LP

#### **Diocese: Llandaff**

Local authority: Vale of Glamorgan.  
Dates of inspection: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Date of last inspection: February 2013  
School's unique reference number: 673 3047  
Headteacher: Mr Owen Turner  
Inspector's name and number: Mr Neil Roberts B.Ed.

#### **School context**

Peterston super Ely VC is a rural village in the east of the Vale of Glamorgan. There has been a church school in the village since 1847. The school comprises 5 classes from Nursery to year 6, with three mixed age groups (Nursery/Reception, Years 1/2, and years 4/5). There are 117 full time and 14 Nursery part time learners. The Headteacher has been in post since September 2015. There are 3 full time and 5 part time teachers. 3 members of staff form the SLT. There are 6 LSAs (2 part time). Around 10% of learners come from the most deprived areas of Wales and 10% from the most affluent areas of Wales (WIMD). Around 50% are from out of county, less than 30% are from the school's catchment area. The school identified 3.4% of learners as having ALN. The FSM indicator is 14.5%. Attendance for the last academic year was 94.3%.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Peterston super Ely V.C. as a Church in Wales school**

Peterston super Ely V.C. school is a happy, secure and welcoming Christian place of learning with a strong and inclusive family atmosphere based on shared Christian values. An ethos of love, care and mutual respect permeates all aspects of school life. The school has a long-established Christian culture and heritage and is very proud of its church status and its close connection to the parish church of St. Peter's. The Headteacher, staff and governors share a clear vision and commitment to develop and enhance this status.

Learners are placed at the centre of everything that the school sets out to achieve. They are valued, encouraged, supported and challenged to maximise their full

potential. By focusing on celebration and collaboration, the school prepares its learners for each stage in their learning journey, promoting a good understanding of the Christian faith and helping to foster respect for all races, religions and ways of life.

Learners value their membership of the school family and enjoy learning. They feel safe and well cared for and are given many opportunities to contribute to their learning experiences. They are encouraged to grow and develop as kind, caring and respectful individuals.

The school is built on distinct Christian values and its very strong partnership with the parish church, diocese and village community. Its core values influence all aspects of school life, and have a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of the school family.

Collective Worship and daily prayer support the development of the school's Christian ethos. Children are given regular opportunities to worship God, reflect on the school's values and use the Bible to guide them in their work and lives. An enriched curriculum which contains well planned and engaging RVE experiences encourages learners to live their lives as ethically informed citizens.

There are clear indications that this is a Church in Wales school with signage, symbols, displays, literature and artefacts in entrances, classrooms, hall and communal areas. The prospectus, website and documentation also make the school's church status clear. Areas within the building have a focal point for prayer and reflection.

### **Established strengths**

- The vision and leadership of the Headteacher which is well supported by staff and governors.
- The happy, inclusive and family nature of the school which is enhanced by positive and respectful relationships between all members of the school community.
- The school's well established and distinct Christian ethos where Christian values permeate and influence all aspects of school life.
- Strong links with the parish church and local community which reinforce and enhance the school's Christian character and purpose

### **Recommendations**

- To develop and embed the role of learners in planning and leading worship on a regular basis. To establish a Worship group to support learner involvement.
- To develop the outdoor area as a place for prayer and reflection in order to support the school's plan to use worship to enrich spirituality through outdoor engagement.
- To regularly review and reflect upon the RVE curriculum to ensure that learners' sense of Cynefin is fully developed.

- To adopt formal procedures to report to the Governing Body on matters of Christian ethos, Curriculum for Wales., R.V.E. and other matters pertaining to the school's church status.

**The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is meeting the needs of all learners including the contribution of Religion, values and ethics to the Christian Character of the school**

Peterston super Ely V.C. school is a safe and caring Christian environment where learners are nurtured and empowered to nurture each other. The school celebrates the unique nature of each child and encourages all to recognise how special they are as children of God. It is an inclusive environment that places a high priority on the well-being of staff and learners. A strong feature of the school is its family ethos where love and respect for one another are evident.

The school's Christian values impact upon and encourage learners' unique personalities to develop and grow. These values are clearly expressed and demonstrated by many in the school community and are embedded in the school's history, traditions and daily life. They underpin its ethos and teaching and are lived out daily by both learners and staff. They have a positive effect on learners' performance, behaviour and relationships. Children are respectful of others and articulate the distinct characteristics of the school's values and the significant impact they have on their lives. Children are proud of their school, happy and well-motivated. They show confidence and maturity when taking responsibility for their own actions. They are encouraged to develop the skills which will help them to be effective and considerate members of the community. Learners are curious and are regularly encouraged to discuss and reflect. They share opinions and ideas and are confident and enthusiastic to discuss issues, concerns or questions they may have with adults. Learners are very supportive of each other – older children demonstrate a particularly caring and thoughtful attitude towards younger learners.

Learner voice is an essential and influential part of school life and makes an important contribution to the development of the Christian vision of the school. Learners take on leadership roles enthusiastically in several councils or committees, actively contributing to key decisions and developing important life skills. Children show care, compassion and a strong commitment to helping others. Learners develop leadership skills through their involvement in leadership groups and organising charitable functions. The school supports a range of local and national charities annually. These include 40 Acts, the local food bank, Refugee week, the Dog Trust and Noah's Ark.

The school effectively promotes learners' understanding of the principles of sustainable development, fair trade, global citizenship, healthy living, recycling and the stewardship of God's earth – emphasising the beauty and richness of the created world and promoting an understanding of our world as a gift from God to be respected and valued.

Learners are very well supported by staff. Relationships between all members of the school community are underpinned by the school's inclusive ethos and are founded on a strong sense of mutual respect, understanding and care for others.

The school has developed a broad and balanced curriculum informed by learners and staff. Staff work collaboratively to deliver quality provision – focusing on a range of stimulating, meaningful and challenging learning experiences. Learners are involved in both independent and collaborative RVE work, fostering teamwork and enriching discussion. The curriculum effectively integrates RVE into various aspects of school life, offering learners rich, purposeful and interesting learning experiences.

By combining independent and collaborative work and hands-on cultural experiences, children have developed a very good understanding of the Christian faith, and a developing awareness of other faiths and cultures. This approach has fostered a holistic educational experience that promotes spiritual, academic and cultural development.

### **The impact of Collective Worship on the school community.**

Whole school worship takes place daily and follows a distinctly Christian structure. It is a special occasion and provides a focus for the school day, providing an opportunity for learners and staff to come together as a Christian family. Worship is promoted and delivered as a time to celebrate God's love and the life of Jesus. The school endeavours to ensure that the principles for worship are inclusive, spiritual and educational. As a result, worship makes a significant contribution to the Christian ethos of the school.

The school's Christian values are at the heart of its focus for worship and are reflected in 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. Values and teachings are often highlighted through Bible stories. Children are encouraged to model their behaviour and attitudes on these scriptures and relate them to their own lives where possible. Worship provides learners with opportunities to share their thoughts and reflect on God's teachings. All acts of worship are designed to be joyful and engaging as well as having a spiritual focus. Broad Anglican traditions are demonstrated in worship – Anglican responses are evident and the Christian ethos of the school is reflected in the provision of a visual focal point, with Christian symbols, displays, interactive displays, artefacts, hymns or songs, prayers and a moment of reflection. Children listen attentively and respond well when questioned. They participate enthusiastically when asked. Learners read prayers or stories from the Bible but do not currently plan or lead worship on a regular basis. They often read their own contributions and sometimes compose their own prayers which they share with the school community. Learners sing well and with obvious pleasure, appreciating singing as a special form of prayer.

Good use is made of the Welsh language in worship in prayers, songs, responses and instructions. Significant occasions in Welsh Christian history and culture are also celebrated appropriately. Worship focuses on important moments in the life of the school and the community. The school recognises and reflects on the achievements and celebrations of all its learners. Celebrating success,

individuality, and diversity is something the school does well and is included in joyful worship on a weekly basis.

Worship is led by all members of staff. The Parish Priest and a Foundation governor also lead worship regularly. A Eucharist service is held at the school every month and occasionally at the parish church. Visiting Christian speakers such as "Open the Book" also visit the school regularly to lead worship.

The support and involvement of visitors play an important role in enriching worship, offering theological depth and meaning by strengthening the school's connection to the wider church community and enhancing its Christian ethos. Older learners indicated that they particularly enjoyed the variety of worship they experienced, giving them confidence to talk about their feelings and beliefs in an increasingly mature way. Most learners respond positively to worship, behave respectfully, show reverence and participate well when invited to do so.

The school is currently planning to further develop worship provision by developing the school grounds to move Collective Worship beyond the school hall. The scheme -entitled "Roots and Reach" aims to enrich and enhance spirituality through outdoor engagement, reflective practice and storytelling.

Worship is a shared experience at the school and is not restricted to the school building. Learners, staff and parents regularly join with members of the village at the parish church in celebrating Christian festivals and special occasions.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership of the school as a church school.**

Peterston super Ely VC 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 in Wales school. He has a clear focus and Christian vision, high expectations and has ensured that the Christian ethos of the school has been communicated and modelled effectively to learners, staff, parents and visitors. All stakeholders share this vision and work very well together to promote the school's Christian mission, values and future development. This strong sense of purpose and direction has a positive impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the learners. The school is at the very heart of village life and the Headteacher is effective in promoting good links with the parish church of St. Peter's and the local community. There is a strong understanding within the community that this is a Church in Wales school.

The Headteacher, staff and Governing Body work effectively together and are involved in the strategic planning processes of the school. They strive conscientiously to ensure that the school provides the education, support and opportunities for all learners to achieve their full potential within a distinct, secure and stimulating Christian learning environment. Effective school development and self- evaluation processes have influenced realistic and robust planning strategies where priorities have been clearly identified. As a result, Collective Worship, the curriculum in general (with a clear focus on RVE) are informed and influenced by distinctive Christian values that contribute positively to learners' good behaviour and attitudes towards learning.

All members of staff are supportive of the school's aims. They are aware of their responsibilities and carry out their roles effectively. They possess good knowledge and expertise to deliver the curriculum and work very well collaboratively as a united team. They are valued for their commitment and contributions to the family team ethos.

The professional development of all staff is considered and prioritised. Staff are advised and encouraged to attend courses which meet the requirements of the SDP. As a result, staff have been engaged in a range of professional development activities which have matched the school's plans. The school works well with the Diocese to develop provision and expertise. The school also works closely with two other church schools to discuss developments in key issues.

The Governing Body have a very good understanding of the nature, purpose and vision of a Church in Wales school and are fully aware of their statutory requirements. Governors are enthusiastic, challenging and keen to maintain and further develop the school's church status. They are very supportive and work effectively to ensure that the school's continued development is a high priority. The Chair visits the school regularly to meet with the Headteacher, and all governors are regular visitors, participating in a range of activities including worship, lesson observations, book scrutinies, learning walks and community activities. They contribute positively to the life of the school, helping to maintain and improve standards and offering support, advice and encouragement at all times. Relationships with parents are very positive. They are supportive of the school and are appreciative of its "open door" policy and its secure, nurturing ethos, praising staff for their care and professionalism.

**The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective acts of worship** - **YES**

**Religion, values and ethics is objective, Critical and pluralistic** - **YES**