

**INSPECTION UNDER SECTION 23  
OF THE SCHOOL INSPECTION ACT 1996**

**A report of the Inspection of the Collective Worship  
and the Ethos**

**of**

**Mellis CEVC Primary School**

**Date of Inspection  
7th. and 8th. February 2005**

**Inspected by : Mrs. B. R. Rowe.**

**A Report to the Governors**

**of  
Mellis CEVC Primary School  
on  
Denominational Education.**

Name and address of the school:

Mellis CEVC Primary School,  
Yaxley Road  
Mellis,  
Nr Eye,  
Suffolk,  
IP23 8DY

Chairman of Governors  
Dr. Ben Box

Headteacher  
Mr. Richard Cattermole

Number of pupils on roll  
114

Inspector  
Mrs. B. R. Rowe

Date of Inspection :  
7th. and 8th. February 2005

**1 Introduction.**

Mellis School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, it is a co-educational day school. It serves the villages of Mellis, Yaxley as well as parts of Thrandeston and Thornham , with almost 45% of the children coming from outside the catchment. It caters for children aged four to eleven. The school is part of a comprehensive education system, with the children progressing to Hartesmere High School.

The school has been on this site since 1953 and the school building has been remodelled and enlarged on a number of occasions, further development is awaited. The school grounds have also undergone remodelling. The school is on the edge of Mellis Common on a minor road that links the A143 Diss to Bury St Edmunds to the A140 the main Ipswich to Norwich road. The surrounding area is rural but with an industrial area close to the A140.

There are four class rooms, cloakrooms and toilets, practical area, computer suite, large resources store room, staffroom and Headteachers room. The school office overlooks the secure main entrance that leads straight into the multi-purpose school hall. There is a kitchen area and servery from which school lunches, prepared off site, are served.

The pedestrian entrance to the school site has mature garden with trees. The vehicle entrance gives access to grass mesh parking that is adjacent to the main hard surface play area. At the rear of the school there is a playing field that contains outdoor play equipment All these areas are enclosed with mature hedges and fencing.

There is a pre school on the site using the playground access and having its own fenced play area. Parents bringing children to school by car park along the busy road have to accompany them onto the site.

The school buildings and site are well cared for.

Mellis School aims to provide a happy and secure environment where each child is encouraged to reach their fullest potential.

There is a firm foundation of care and respect that fosters each child's intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual development. The school is committed to working closely with parents, church and community in its task.

## **2 Evidence Data.**

A visit was made to the school on the evening of 18<sup>th</sup>. January to take part in the Parents Consultation meeting. In the afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup>. January the preliminary meeting with the Headteacher took place. The opportunity was taken to meet the staff and tour the school. Visits took place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>. and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>. February 2005. Two Acts of Collective Worship were observed. Interviews were conducted with children from Years 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, members of the Teaching Staff and a Teaching Assistant. Interviews were conducted with Mr. James Fawcett and Mrs Betty Wells Foundation Governor and with the Reverend Jan Fowler the Assistant Priest for three of the parishes served by the school. Mr. Robert Cattermole, Headteacher was interviewed as Worship Co-ordinator and at the end of the visit as Headteacher. The opportunity was taken to have informal conversations with other governors, teachers, children, support staff and parents during the time of the visits to the school.

## **3 Collective Worship.**

There is a policy for Collective Worship, it conforms to the Model Policy as provided by the Diocese and has been in place since February 1999.

An Act of Collective Worship takes place each day in the hall for the whole school except on Wednesday when Class 4 is joined in their classroom by the children from the Pre-school. The children are brought to the Hall by their teachers who do not usually attend the worship. The pattern of Collective Worship is shown on the following chart.

Monday	9:25 – 9:45	Headteacher
Tuesday	10:25 – 10:45	Sharing Assembly Teacher
Wednesday	10:25 – 10:45	Hymn Pract. Headteacher Classes 3,2,&1  Class 4 / Preschool Teacher
Thursday	10:25 – 10:45	Rector/Lay Elder/ Visitor/Headteacher
Friday	10:25 – 10:45	Teacher

Each class leads Assembly once a term.

Special Services are held alternately in St. Mary the Virgin Church Mellis and St. Mary the Virgin Yaxley at Harvest, Christmas and Easter to which parents and members of the community are invited.

The Collective Worship themes are built around the Diocesan four year programme. The school's planning makes positive links to the Christian Festivals and important events, as appropriate. The music at each Collective Act of Worship has been carefully chosen and introduced to the children so as to support the themes. Taped music is used at school. There is a tradition for instrumental soloists to play at Monday Assemblies.

The children took part in the Acts of Collective Worship inspected, by assisting with the taped music, an older boy playing the cornet, displaying work, answering questions, singing, affirming prayers and listening to the music.

The Acts of Collective Worship that were attended were judged to be very good and appropriate for the children. The children showed a clear understanding of the teaching within the Acts of Collective Worship.

A weekly record sheet of what takes place at each Act of Collective Worship is completed by those who lead the Assembly. The comments recorded in the evaluation column refer to the children's response.

This term Assembly Observation Sheets have been completed as part of the school's Performance Management programme.

Grace is read or sung by the children in their classrooms at the end of morning school. At the end of the afternoon session a prayer is said before the children leave.

The school prospectus states the parents right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this is implemented with sensitivity.

#### **4 Ethos of the School.**

The school aims to provide a secure and stimulating environment in which children feel valued as individuals and can learn qualities of kindness, tolerance and consideration for others. Positive steps are taken to make the children both aware and respectful of others. The example set by the staff and adults encountered during the inspection clearly illustrates these qualities and values. Parents are aware that this is a Church school and are highly appreciative of the care, moral and spiritual guidance that is provided.

The standard of behaviour is good inside the buildings and on the playground.

The school has established good links with parents and members of the local community who support educational activities on a regular basis.

The school supports a number of national and international charities. It has a long standing links with a school in Finland.

The school makes a considerable effort to enrich the social, sporting and cultural opportunities available to the children. It provides a wide range of clubs, sporting activities and visits. Because of the school's well established links with parents and

members of the local community, it is able to offer activities before school, in the lunch hour and after school.

The displays around the school celebrate the activities of both present and past members of the school.

## **5 Section 23 Report 23rd. and 25th. November 1998.**

The document was made available. The Recommendations have been addressed in the following ways.

*1. Continue to keep under review the practice of giving teachers non-contact time during assemblies.*

This has taken place. [ While teachers continue to be given non-contact time during assemblies, the present arrangements include three teachers taking assembly once every week ]

*2. Consider carefully the appropriateness of asking children to pray rather than giving them the opportunity to do so.*

This has been considered carefully. In talking with the children while the younger children considered that the introduction to the prayer was an instruction, the older children considered it to be an invitation and if anyone chose not to pray, they were able to spell out the appropriate behaviour required of them.

*3. Consider adding the importance of spiritual development to the school aims and deleting the word 'tolerance' replacing it with a word like 'valuing 'or 'respect'.*

This has been considered and in the Annual Prospectus 2005 – 2006 the section headed The Philosophy and Aims of the School, includes the following sentences :-

The Spiritual Development of each child will be recognised as an integral part of their overall development.

The school will be a place where respect for others and sensitive human relationships are promoted, and awareness of "self" and "other" increased.

*4. Implement its plan to finalise and adopt the updated policy for collective worship.*

The school adopted the Collective Worship Policy and it came into use in February 1999.

*5. Consider modifying the draft collective worship policy on the place of the Lord's Prayer and adopting a more flexible approach to its use.*

The Collective Worship Policy commits 'the school to exploring ways in which prayer including the modern version of the Lord's Prayer can be used so as to ensure reverence and fellowship'. The use of the Lord's Prayer to end each assembly has been revised. The record sheets made available for Autumn Term 2004, indicate that Prayer / Reflection are now linked directly to the Objective / Theme for the day.

## **6 Commendations.**

1. The good quality of the Acts of Collective Worship.
2. The care taken in the planning for and recording of the Acts of Collective Worship.
3. The inclusion of Assembly Observation as part of the school's Performance Management procedures and the imaginative and focused record sheet that has been developed for this task.
4. The expressed commitment of the school to provide the highest quality of educational environment, for all the children in their care.

## **7 Recommendations.**

1. That consideration be given to ways of identifying, for the children that they have come into the hall for an Act of Collective Worship, by providing a suitable symbol as a visual focus.
2. That as part of the programmed review of Assemblies, planned for Spring 05, dates be set for future reviews of Collective Worship on a similar time scale to those for other elements of the school curriculum.

**Mrs. Rowe would like to thank the pupils, Governors, Headteacher and Staff of Mellis School for the helpful and courteous approach to this inspection. It is hoped that the comments contained in this report will prove useful in the future development of the school.**

**Summary of Report  
Section 23 Inspection for  
Mellis C.E.V.C. Primary School.**

**7th. and 8th. February 2005.  
by Mrs. B. Rowe. B.Sc., Adv.Dip.Ed.Mngt.**

The Collective Worship complies with the legal requirement and status of the school.

The school is commended for the good quality of the Acts of Collective Worship, the care taken in the planning for and recording of the Acts of Collective Worship and the inclusion of Assembly Observation as part of the school's Performance Management procedures and the imaginative and focused record sheet that has been developed for this task. The school is also commended for its expressed commitment to provide the highest quality of educational environment, for all the children in their care.

The Report recommends that consideration be given to ways of identifying, for the children that they have come into the hall for an Act of Collective Worship, by providing a suitable symbol as a visual focus, and that as part of the programmed review of Assemblies, planned for Spring 05, dates be set for future reviews of Collective Worship on a similar time scale to those for other elements of the school curriculum.

**The Inspector wishes to thank the school for the hospitality she received, and for the openness of the staff, governors, parents and children in responding to questions.**