

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Arnesby Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Mill Hill Road

Arnesby

Leics

LE8 5WG

Diocese: Leicester

LEA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: Friday, 27th and Tuesday, 31st January 2006

Date of last inspection: 16th and 17th March 1999

School's Unique reference No: 120109

Name of Head teacher: Diane Millar

Inspector's name and N.S. No: Shirley Dudfield (164)

Context

Arnesby is a small primary school serving Arnesby, Shearsby and surrounding villages. The school has been on its present site since 1857 and has recently undergone further building improvements. There are 54 pupils on roll.

Summary Judgement

Arnesby school has a strong underlying Christian ethos which has a positive effect on its learners. There is a sense of togetherness and mutual support within the school. Pupils are articulate and confident, showing care and concern for one another and rejoicing in each other's successes.

Acts of worship are thought provoking and involve the pupils in open and frank discussion. Leadership and management is very good and pupils appreciate the improvements which have recently been made in the school.

Links with the local community and clergy are very good.

Established strengths

- Christian principles underpin the school's aims and activities.
- Pupils are open, articulate, well mannered and friendly.
- Staff are committed and caring.
- Collective worship encourages pupils' thoughtful responses.
- Local clergy are actively involved in the life of the school.
- Management is good and pupil views are well represented by the school council.

Focus for development

- The Christian principles and values, which give the school its distinctive character should be celebrated, so that its Christian distinctiveness is seen as well as felt.
- The importance of the Christian faith should be reflected in the SEF and other documentation
- Acts of worship must be consistently and coherently planned and should be assessed in order to inform future planning.
- A focus for worship should be introduced to concentrate the pupils' attention and differentiate worship from other activities in the classroom.
- Whole school Acts of worship should have relevance across the age range. Pupils should be more involved in leading and participating in acts of worship. Staff should be encouraged to attend acts of worship

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?

In the area of its distinctive Christian character, meeting the needs of all learners, Arnesby school is judged to be good with outstanding features.

The needs of learners at Arnesby school are well catered for. The personal development of the pupils is very good. Learners are cared for effectively and are encouraged to think for themselves. Pupils show care and concern for one another and standards and expectations of behaviour are high. The leadership is clear about the Christian ethos of the school and is confident that this is a major factor in the school's successes. Learners report that they are making progress with their learning and that the school teaches them "to help themselves and to help others" They believe the school "encourages belief - but not too far" and that the school has become "friendlier and happier" during the current head's tenure. Parents feel the school has a caring and supportive atmosphere.

What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?

The impact of collective worship on the school community is judged to be satisfactory. Arnesby is a small school with a strong sense of family which is evident during acts of worship. Acts of worship are a shared experience and all pupils feel free to respond when invited. Whole school assemblies do not always effectively engage children from all age groups. Key stage assemblies take place on Thursdays. The absence of a visual focus during worship may contribute to the foundation stage children being unaware of this.

Pupils have written prayers which are used at lunchtimes to add variety to the standard "graces" before meals. Local clergy visit weekly and the incumbent follows themes from the Anglican church calendar. The Baptist minister has recently begun a series which will focus on the life of Christ. Acts of worship take place in the parish church throughout the school year. The school contributes to the parish magazine.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

The leadership and management of Arnesby school as a church school is judged to be good. The school is well managed and benefits from very good leadership. The leadership perceives the Christian principles of the school to be a key factor in its progress. This underlying ethos should be more visible in documentation and in the school environment. Local clergy and governors are involved in the life of the school. Parents are happy with the leadership of the school and with its Christian character. Relationships between all members of the school community are very good.

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