

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

The Billingham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Fen Road
Billinghay
Lincoln
Lincolnshire
LN4 4HU

Diocese of Lincoln

Lincolnshire LEA

SIAS Inspection: 6 & 10 February 2006

Date of last inspection: March 2000

Unique Reference Number: 120515

Headteacher: Mrs D Westermann-Childs

SIAS Inspector: Mrs Meg Hackney (NS 198)

Context

The Billingham Primary School is located in a rural area and learners come from a wide range of social and intellectual backgrounds. All pupils are of white British heritage. The proportion of pupils with learning and emotional difficulties is above average for a school of this size.

Summary Judgement

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England School is good.

Established strengths

- The headteacher's strong supportive leadership and vision for the school.
- The commitment to raising standards in all areas of school life.
- The value placed upon every individual in the school community characterised by Christian care and concern for others.
- Close links with the Church and community.

Focus for development

- Although the school's Mission Statement is displayed, consider a clearer focal point with Christian symbols located in the entrance to make the Anglican foundation of the school more explicit to visitors, pupils and parents.
- Increase the opportunity for pupils to take a more leading role in collective worship through class or year group assemblies.
- Encourage groups of parents to attend some assemblies in school.

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

The school through its distinctive Christian character makes good provision for all learners. The school's Christian character is firmly embedded and this is having a positive impact on the achievement and self-esteem of pupils who feel valued and nurtured. Pupils are proud of their school and keen to talk about their work and contribution to the school community. Pupils' spiritual development is planned for effectively. During lessons and worship pupils reflect on a range of moral issues and many speak with clear understanding about topics such as kindness and consideration for others. They recognise the Christian values of inclusion and this is reflected in their enthusiasm and good behaviour around the school. The school has a strong partnership with the Church and this has resulted in pupils taking part regularly in special services and community activities. Through a growing awareness of Christianity and the input of the clergy and staff pupils in Year 6 are well informed about the support available to them from the church when they leave the school. The good relationships throughout the school which are strongly led by the headteacher are based firmly on Christian values and the care and support for others. The school has a good understanding of pupils' personal, social and academic needs and the staff know pupils well. This is particularly evident in the care and support given to pupils who transferred from North Kyme School which has helped them to become fully integrated into the school.

What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. The daily act of worship is good and an important and integral part of the school day. The headteacher has developed this well to create the sense of the school community joining together for a special time. Daily worship is well planned and presented and celebrates the school's Anglican foundation and Christian beliefs. In the hall an attractive focal point with Christian symbols and a backdrop stating 'Our Christian values this term are kindness' is a prominent feature. The wooden cross and lit candle helps to create a distinct atmosphere for worship. Pupils have a positive attitude towards collective worship and the majority show their enjoyment in singing and praying well together. This makes a positive contribution to their spiritual development and their ability to reflect and appreciate the world around them. The headteacher is very well supported by the Vicar in developing a good range of moral themes for worship and these are closely followed and well presented. The school recognises that at present opportunities are missed for pupils to take an active leading role during worship. As part of the revised curriculum improvements are planned to allow pupils to take responsibility for class assemblies and the sharing and celebration of topics.

The whole school act of worship which was well led by the Vicar engaged pupils well and they listened attentively to the story of Amos. After time for reflection some of the

older pupils were keen and confident to share their thoughts about their own worth, being grateful, kind to others and helping the poor. Pupils responded well to thought-provoking questions about their relationships and the school's support for charities, particularly Lepra.

The weekly celebration assembly led by the headteacher is a very happy and special occasion for all. Pupils speak of their favourite assembly with excitement and enthusiasm. They sang tunefully and with obvious enjoyment and concentrated well during prayer and reflection. The Golden Book and new House system is much valued and appreciated by pupils and many were rewarded with stickers and certificates for good work and acts of kindness. There was a strong sense of community which provided pupils with excellent personal and social development following a theme of 'kind and thoughtful people are Super-Heroes.' Their spontaneous applause for each other's success is commendable.

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

The leadership and management of the school as a church school is good. The quality of leadership by the headteacher is calm and very effective. With the strong support of the church and foundation governors the school is now more firmly established as a Church of England school with a distinctive Christian character. The headteacher and Vicar have looked closely at the quality of collective worship and developed a series of themes which make a strong contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development. Senior managers have a good understanding of the local community and there is a clear vision for the school's progression based firmly on Christian values and beliefs. The self-evaluation of the school as a church school is secure and areas for improvement have been identified and included in the school's development plan.