

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Blyton cum Laughton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

High Street
Blyton
Gainsborough
DN21 3JX

Diocese: Lincoln

LA: Lincolnshire

Dates of inspection: 10 and 11 July 2006

Date of last inspection: Blyton November 1999 / Laughton June 2004

School's Unique reference number: 120619

Headteacher: Mrs Lynne Saint

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Jackie Sheldrake NS 255

School context

Blyton Church of England Primary School was renamed Blyton cum Laughton in April 2005 when Blyton School came together with Laughton Endowed Church of England Primary School. The renamed school is situated in these two school buildings, two miles apart, both within village settings. The pupils come from a wide socio economic background. The vast majority having a white British background with a small number having a variety of minority ethnic backgrounds. There are 146 pupils on role, with 39 based at the Laughton site. At present pupils in both Key Stages are taught at each site but from September 2006 the Laughton site will be for Key Stage 1 pupils only with all Key Stage 2 pupils based at the Blyton school building. Since earlier this year activities at the Blyton site have been restricted by extensive building work due to be completed shortly.

Summary Judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Blyton cum Laughton Primary as a Church of England school is good with outstanding features. This is a happy, inclusive and deeply caring school where Christian values are at the centre of all its work. The School has worked sensitively and with success to honour the needs of both communities whilst ensuring a high quality education for all its pupils.

Established strengths

- The commitment of the leadership and management to include the whole school and the two village communities in maintaining and further developing a strong Christian ethos within the enlarged school community at Blyton and at Laughton.
- The behaviour of the pupils on both sites is outstanding and relationships are very good.
- All groups of pupils achieve well in relation to their abilities.
- Strong and effective links are established with local Church communities.

Focus for development

- Ensure that the ethos of the school is maintained following the re-organisation of the school with a single Key Stage on each site.
- Develop the collective worship policy to include systems for monitoring the long term planning and delivery of collective worship.
- Maintain and develop the quality of teaching and learning in religious education through a review of the policy and practice including opportunities for assessment.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character is good with many outstanding features at meeting the needs of all pupils. Christian care and concern for the needs of others is clearly evident in its daily life while high levels of achievement for all ability groups

are at the centre of the school's purpose. Careful planning across subject areas ensures high levels of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and this achievement is also evident through good quality displays in classrooms and around the school. The behaviour of the pupils is outstanding and relationships throughout the school community are very good. The pupils are happy and feel safe in this environment. They are able to talk of their feelings and reflect on the lives and needs of others. They initiate and support charity work. Pupils speak highly of the quality of care and support they receive both from the staff and from each other. Their achievements and efforts are celebrated at every opportunity and all groups feel valued and special. Pupils are consulted on the development of the school and they speak with pride and a mature level of understanding of the recent changes that have taken place. They feel involved and believe that their opinions and ideas are valued.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good and greatly supports the pupils' spiritual and moral development. Collective worship is an important aspect of the daily life of the school and it is well supported and valued by the staff, the parents and members of the two local communities including a pre-school group. It is a time for both reflection and celebration. Worship is Christian and reflects the Christian tradition making good use of links with the local clergy and churches. Major Christian festivals and the Church year are celebrated while the school is sensitive to the needs of pupils from other faith backgrounds. The pupils enjoy and participate well in the acts of worship both within the school and in the village church. Their behaviour is exemplary with good singing and Key Stage 2 pupils provide high quality recorder music. Prayer is important in the life of the school and opportunities for prayer take place throughout the day. Pupils talk of the importance of prayer in their daily life at school.

How effective is the religious education?

Religious Education (RE) is good and forms an important part of the whole school curriculum. Standards of achievement are good overall and at times very good in relation to pupils' level of ability. Teaching is good and teachers know their pupils' needs. Lessons are well planned with stimulating resources carefully aimed at the pupils' level of interest. Pupils' attitudes to religious education are very good and they enjoy the lessons. They are able to reflect on their experiences, discuss the significance of what they have learnt and are able to pose questions, which lead to further learning. The Headteacher monitors the quality of teaching and learning and work continues on the development of the religious education policy linked to the need for devising assessment criteria. RE supports the pupils' growing understanding of a multicultural world and high quality displays in both school sites illustrate the pupils' developing understanding of world faiths. They are enabled to have empathy for the beliefs and values of others.

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 are good with many outstanding features. The quality of leadership contributes significantly to the success of the school. The Headteacher is outstanding in her commitment to establish and further develop the Christian character of this re-organised school. She has ensured that the needs of the pupils are at the forefront of all development. The Governing Body have dealt very sensitively with the bringing together of the two schools and have shown care and concern for the needs and concerns of both the Blyton and Laughton communities. The school promotes leadership at all levels. Teachers and support staff feel involved and appreciated and relationships are very good. Parents believe that the school has a special quality that enables all pupils to flourish as individuals and to the best of their ability. The sensitive involvement of all groups both within the school and in the two villages in the development of the mission statement has further developed the strong links with the community. There are strong supportive links with local Church communities and with the Diocese. Pupils feel proud of their involvement in their developing school and groups from both sites work very well with each other.