

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Charlesworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled School

Long Lane
Glossop
Derbyshire.
SK13 5ET

Diocese : Derby

LEA : Derbyshire

Dates of inspection : 30th January 2006

Date of last inspection : 14th-15th October 1999

School's Unique reference number: 112877

Name of Headteacher: Miss S Gate

Inspector's name : Mrs Zita Roscoe NS 292

School context

This is a non-denominational church school, created when two schools, one Anglican and the other Non-Conformist, were amalgamated. It continues to function on split sites, one building for Reception & KS1 pupils and the other for KS2 pupils. The Headteacher has been in situ for just a few weeks. The children come from a wide variety of backgrounds in this small village school.

Summary Judgement

Christian values underpin the work in this school. Community links are strong, especially with the three Christian churches in the village. This enhances the ecumenical ethos of the school. There is very good recognition of the wider community. A calm and purposeful atmosphere, where pupils feel valued, welcomed and secure, exists. Supportive parents and governors acknowledge this.

Established strengths

- Good planning by RE and Collective Worship co-ordinator.
- Good RE displays.
- Strong links between the school, governors, parents and churches.
- Outstanding contribution made towards the wider community through fundraising.
- Th use of prayer throughout the day.
- Contribution to worship made by the local clergy.

Focus for development

- Provide a Christian focus at the designated entrances to the school.
- Make more use of the local churches for worship and consider contributing children's work for them to display.
- Make Collective Worship planning more user-friendly and include all those who lead worship in its formation.
- In the Mission Statement, give more emphasis to the Christian aspect of the school and celebrate the school's good Christian practice in the brochure.
- Provide staff with opportunities for training in RE and Collective Worship.
- Include Collective Worship in the School's SIP.

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

The school, through its distinctive character, meets the needs of all learners well. The Christian ethos permeates throughout. Staff, pupils and parents feel valued. Their thoughts and wishes are taken into consideration and acted upon. Regular questionnaires, given to both pupils and parents, and half termly meetings give evidence to this. School and class councils contribute to the school life in an effective way. However, policies and statements in the school brochure do not always reflect the good practice which is evident in the school. The caring ethos is encouraged through Playground Friends and the Buddy Bench. The "adoption" of a child in Africa and the children's decision not to receive the customary Christmas presents from the Parents' Association and donate the money to their charity instead, demonstrates how well the Christian tradition is followed. A wide range of out-of-hours activities are run by parents and staff.

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

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is satisfactory. Acts of worship are held at the beginning of each day. Prayers are said at lunch time and at the end of each day. The school Creed is said on a regular basis. Special services are well attended by parents and the community. RE is well planned and schemes of work are in line with the LEA's Agreed Syllabus. Worship is well planned but the documentation is not user-friendly. This is an area for development. Pupils participate well in Collective Worship, demonstrating thought and interest. Good worship focus, with a cross, candle and Bible is provided. Singing is enthusiastic and appropriate music is played upon entry and exit. All teaching staff contribute to the leading of Collective Worship and all attend. Regular weekly worship is led by the local clergy or lay preachers. This fosters the ecumenical spirit of which the school is so proud. The Christian year is recognised. Weekly Celebration Assemblies acknowledge pupils' achievements, together with such initiatives as the Reward Tree and a display which states, "We are all different but we are all important." Notably, when a fellow Muslim pupil died, the school held a special service for the family.

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 school has benefited from the contribution made last term by the Acting Headteacher who was instrumental in bringing the staff together. The newly appointed Headteacher has already made an impact on the school. Supportive governors, especially the Foundation governors, have contributed well to the school's vision of a church school. The members of staff are now working well as a team and, under the new leadership, are becoming more involved in the decision-making. Parents and pupils speak positively about the school and are happy with the plans to move it forward. Efficient contributions towards the pupils' social, moral and spiritual welfare, especially through its healthy eating initiatives and its positive behaviour policies are a strength.