

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Clayton-le-Woods Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Back Lane
Clayton-le-Woods
Chorley
PR6 7EU

Diocese of Blackburn

Lancashire LEA

SIAS inspection: 9 December 2005

Previous S23 inspection: February 2000

URN: 119468

Headteacher: Mr. M. Phillipson

SIAS Inspector NS: Mrs S. Owen

Context

The school is situated within the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Whittle-le-Woods. The Church lies at some distance from the school. In spite of this difficulty, the school and Church maintain strong links.

Summary Judgement

Clayton-le-Woods Church of England Primary School is a very good church school which is held in high regard by the local community. It is strongly identified as a Church School in both Mission Statement and aims, and actual practice reflects these aims well. There is clear evidence that each pupil is nurtured in a caring Christian community.

Established strengths

- the stability and strong sense of Christian commitment is a major contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development.
- the high quality of care and support for all members of the school community.
- the impact of pupils' involvement in Worship in promoting spiritual development.
- the co-ordinator for worship and Religious Education makes a significant impact on the standards which are achieved.

Focus for development

- continue to develop the opportunity to collaborate with a similar school, to share ideas, vision and the pooling of resources.
- continue to pursue provision for able and gifted pupils to express their talents to the full.
- revisit the mission statement to update in the context of current practice.

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

The way in which the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners, is outstanding. The school has high expectations of its pupils, and this is clearly stated in the school brochure. The belief is expressed that all children should have a broad and balanced education. In this school, all groups feel valued and special, and there is excellent provision in all Key Stages. The strong relationships have an impact on the way learners respond to school and make progress. Children are given the help and support they need and have excellent guidance on how to improve their work.

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

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is outstanding. The vital importance of collective worship was emphasised by both the head the teaching staff and the incumbent. This ensures that the pupils respond enthusiastically to their experience of worship. The co-ordinator has exceptionally well planned, detailed and imaginative acts of worship making an outstanding contribution to the learners' understanding of Anglican traditions. Outcomes, thoughts and reflection on these are reported on and documented by the person leading the worship with comments on pupils' responses. Parents are welcomed each week and invited to stay for refreshments subsequently. This family approach has a great impact on pupils' sense of Christian community. A wide variety of opportunities for participation are enjoyed, using children's own prayers, readings, drama, singing and movement. Pupils speak of great enjoyment in their involvement in Collective Worship, and actual practice reflects this well. On the day of inspection, prayers were said in the name of Jesus, and the form of worship was distinctly Anglican. The children were thoughtfully engaged and interacted well throughout.

How effective is the Religious Education in the school?

The effectiveness of religious education is outstanding. Of the lessons seen, one in each Key Stage, the quality of teaching was outstanding. Work was differentiated appropriately to meet the needs of all learners, and there was evidence of a breadth of teaching styles. The work which is produced is of a very high standard. Children were given the opportunity to explore ideas in a range of ways, including viewing the Nativity from various perspectives. Children were absorbed and reflected well on their topic. It was evident from both lessons seen that pupils are confident in approaching their studies by questioning, debating and by guided personal research. The school uses a number of resources such as computer software and Godly Play materials which make a significant contribution to the pupils' spiritual development. The programme of work ensures that pupils receive an appropriate balance between the teaching of Christianity and teaching about other faiths.

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

The shared vision of the headteacher and chair of governors provide outstanding leadership. The School's Christian purpose is made evident through their strong commitment. The weekly lunchtime Christian club, organised and run by the school caretaker has become so popular that it is restricted to pupils in Y5 and Y6, and may extend soon to two lunchtime sessions per week. Children spoke with great enthusiasm about the topics and activities. Appropriate information is held about the Club. In addition, the incumbent of the parish is instrumental in promoting a distinctive Christian ethos in partnership with the headteacher and governors. Initiatives are put into practice to encourage pupils' involvement in the church. The school's Christian purpose is clearly communicated through the prospectus. The headteacher's personal philosophy of following the teachings of Jesus also supports the school's Christian purpose. All parents automatically become members of the Parent Teacher and Friends Association when their child comes to school. This strengthens links between home and school, providing opportunities not only for learners' social development, but also interaction between all members of the school community. The team work is a major strength of the school.