

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Coppull Church of England Voluntary Aided School Parish Primary School

Roe Hey Drive,
Coppull
CHORLEY
PR7 4PU

Diocese: Blackburn

Local Authority: Lancashire

Headteacher: Mrs Maria Brennan

Inspection date: 17th March 2006

Date of previous inspection: 31st January 2000

Inspector: Mr P B Jump

Inspector number: NS 25

Summary Judgement

Coppull Parish CE Primary School is a good church school with several outstanding features. At its heart is its Christian ethos which permeates all aspects of school life.

School context

Coppull Parish is a smaller than average voluntary aided Church of England primary school with 181 children on roll. The proportion of children with learning and behavioural difficulties is similar to the national average as is the percentage eligible for free school.

Established strengths

- The school has a clear Christian ethos evident through its worship, relationships and Religious Education.
- There is a whole school vision through very effective leadership and very supportive teamwork between staff, pupils, parents and the local community.

Focus for development

- To extend the introduction of 'Godly Play' in Religious Education to all classes;
- To extend invitations to leaders of other denominations to share in collective worship from time to time.
- To include at least one question regarding the effectiveness of the school as a church school in the next parental questionnaire.

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

It is through its distinctive character that the school makes good provision to meet the needs of all its learners, including those from minority ethnic or faith backgrounds, those who have special educational needs and those who are experiencing difficulties or causing problems for others. Learners from all groups are able to flourish as individuals due to feeling valued and special. The great majority from all groups do well and fulfil their potential, whatever their gifts or talents might be. Their academic achievement is good or better in relation to their prior attainment and social background. The pupils' personal development and well-being is good with some outstanding features. Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are particularly strong irrespective of their faith position. The school is in the process of developing links with an African school through 'Make Poverty History'. Relationships within the school community are evidence of a strong partnership that exists between pupils, parents, staff, the church and the wider community. This is characterised by the learners' outstanding behaviour and the Christian care and concern for others that exists within and between all members of the school family.

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

Worship occupies a place of vital importance in the life of the school and is a key element in its Christian witness. Acts of worship are consistently well planned and delivered by a variety of staff, clergy, visitors and learners. Some acts of worship are key stage specific,

some class based and others whole school. At the end of each week there is a 'sharing' assembly. There are high levels of participation by individuals and groups of learners and they evoke a very positive response from those attending who see them as enjoyable, inspiring and imaginative. The whole school act of worship seen on the day of the inspection was excellent. All the teachers and teaching assistants were present and the children were very responsive. The equating of the 'Parable of the Sower' to that of a child's party was particularly imaginative and was engaging for all from the youngest Foundation Stage child to the most senior adult present. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian and develops the learners' understanding of the Anglican tradition. Within each classroom there is a small table housing Christian artefacts and books. There are regular acts of worship held in church that are open to parents as well as monthly Sunday church services held in school. Various classes give presentations at these services from time to time. The Vicar is a regular visitor to the school and contributor to worship. There are therefore excellent links between the church and the school.

How effective is religious education?

Religious Education is recognised by governors, senior management and other staff as being of particular importance in a Christian school and the subject's status in the school reflects this. Achievement in relation to the learners' background and prior attainment is good and standards of attainment are at least comparable with those in the core subjects. The quality of both learning and teaching is high and the subject makes a major contribution to spiritual and moral development. Year 6 responses showed an excellent understanding of the Christian faith reflecting high learning achievements. The learners' responses to the very high calibre lesson in Year 5 were excellent. In the 'Godly Play' lesson of the Parable of the Great Banquet when asked how those who attended would have felt, their imaginative answers included: God had answered their prayers; they would be overwhelmed and astonished; their spirits would be raised; they would be amazed. These responses, along with their full involvement in the whole lesson showed how much prior knowledge and understanding had occurred and how effective their learning had been. Whatever their own faith background learners enjoy the subject and acknowledge its relevance to their own lives. Schemes of work fully comply with the Blackburn Diocesan syllabus and reflect the school's Christian foundation at the same time as giving due weight to other faiths. The assessment procedures for RE throughout the school are being developed by a very capable and effective curriculum co-ordinator.

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

The quality of leadership contributes significantly to the success of the school. The Head Teacher, supported by a very capable Deputy, has raised the standards in the school considerably over the last two years. Its Christian purpose is clearly expressed in its mission statement that states, 'Everyone matters in God's world'. Governors are involved with the Head Teacher and staff in monitoring, evaluating and developing the Christian dimension of the school's life. Parents have noted the improved links with the church through individual comments made in the recent Parental Questionnaire. However, the parental questionnaire which is currently in use does not directly ask for any responses regarding the school's effectiveness as a church school. Learners and their parents speak appreciatively about the commitment of the staff to all individuals and the quality of education provided. The school enjoys a very close and productive relationship with the local Church community.