

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Cramlington Cragside Church of England Voluntary Controlled School**

#### **First School**

Cateran Way  
Cramlington  
Northumberland  
NE23 6EX

#### **Diocese of Newcastle**

Northumberland LEA  
SIAS Inspection: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006  
Date of last inspection – N/A  
URN: 134473  
Headteacher: Mrs Joy Fleet-Thompson  
SIAS Inspector: Miss Lesley Richardson

### **Context**

This is an average sized First School that became Voluntary Controlled two years ago. The school is organised into Key Stages, Foundation is run as a unit and there are three parallel classes in each Key Stage. The school serves an area of high density housing, mostly owner occupied. Children enter the school with slightly above average attainment.

### **Summary Judgement**

Cragside is a good school. The staff and governors have made a good start to establishing the Christian identity and ethos of a church school.

### **Established strengths**

This is a school with strong, supportive links with the local community and the church. The children are at the centre of the Christian ethos and are respected, nurtured and valued by everyone within the school.

### **Focus for development**

- Further develop links with church encouraging involvement of members into school.
- Develop Prayer Stations throughout school.
- Consider strengthening impact of worship table to be a focus for reflection.
- Consider use of spirituality areas in school to develop spiritual awareness.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all its pupils well.

The school makes good provision to meet the needs of all its pupils.

The ethos of the school is based on Christian values and the statement in the Behaviour Plan "The school follows Christ's teaching of forgiveness and a new day is a new start" is complemented by the treatment of each child as a unique individual. Children talk about caring for each other especially younger pupils at lunchtime and playtime and how to forgive others when they disagree. The nurture group teaches children how to control feelings and builds individual self esteem. Children are encouraged to ask questions and take a pride in the care of their bodies. The School Council takes responsibility for decisions within the school and wrote their own Annual Report to go to parents with the Governors Annual report. Relationships within the school and with partners are good with everyone being proud of the school's Christian identity.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Worship is an important part of daily life in the school and messages from the well planned sessions are reinforced throughout the school day. Children engage with enthusiasm and are keen to participate. Prayer boards and areas within each classroom enhance children's experience of reflection and prayer. These experiences are further developed in the Prayer Stations organised by the vicar. These are times when pupils are encouraged to think, reflect and explore their spiritual dimension. The presence and contribution of the vicar greatly enhances the Anglican foundation and adds depth to the children's spiritual experiences. The children are very aware of the beauty and wonder of creation taking care of the school garden and making plans for the development of a school orchard. There are a variety of activities throughout the school to support spiritual development for example stilling, reflection.

**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 headteacher and governors have a clear vision for the school which is shared by staff and parents. The headteacher is positive, organised, and innovative and this helps drive the vision. There have been lots of changes implemented since the appointment of the headteacher and everyone has been involved and part of driving the change. Staff feel valued and respected and work together well proving to be a very strong supportive team, demonstrating in practice the Christian ethos of the school. Governors are actively involved in the monitoring of standards and provision within the school and have a very good knowledge of strengths and weaknesses and where their input would be most valuable. The school has links with other churches and with the RC school including activities such as football. The children are involved with supporting a variety of charities raising their awareness of need.