

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Forest of Galtres Church of England/Methodist Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Shipton by Beningbrough,  
York,  
YO30 1AG

**Diocese: York**

LA: North Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 28 March 2006

Date of last inspection: January 2000

School's Unique reference number: 121601

Headteacher: Mrs Irene Marwood

Inspector's name and number: Allan Summers 281

#### School context

Forest of Galtres Anglican/Methodist VC Primary School is an attractive rural school with around 200 pupils, situated in the village of Shipton by Beningbrough on the outskirts of York. It serves not only the local area and four other nearby villages but also a much wider rural community. It is unique in the local authority in its joint religious foundation. Children are organised into seven age discrete classes in a well resourced environment.

#### Summary Judgement

In much of its work Forest of Galtres VC Primary School is outstanding. The school enjoys a well led happy, committed and highly motivated staff team supported by an effective governing body. The Christian ethos of the school is an undoubted strength as is the calibre of interaction between all sections of the school community. Christian values do positively underpin every facet of the work of the school and the self evaluation process has been secure and effective.

#### Established strengths

- A dedicated, collegiate, highly motivated and very well led staff team supported by a governing body which displays similar traits.
- The robust Christian ethos which permeates the culture of the school and underpins its work.
- Well behaved and responsive pupils with a good sense of personal responsibility.
- The relationships between staff and learners, among learners and between staff is outstanding.
- Learners know, appreciate and can articulate what it is to be part of a church school.

#### Focus for development

- The school should review its brochure and establish a discrete section for collective worship.
- The school should review its collective worship policy to incorporate a more inclusive monitoring process.

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

Forest of Galtres VC Primary School is outstanding in this area. The unique joint foundation between Anglican and Methodist churches brings an added dimension to the robust Christian ethos, which permeates and underpins the school's culture, namely unconditional cooperation and a genuine unity of purpose. The shared chaplaincy which this situation allows is particularly effective having been severely tested over the past year as the community suffered some traumatic incidents and the school has emerged strong and united in faith and prayer. Children's welfare and well being are at the heart of the life of the school where every child is made to feel valued. They are well motivated, achieve highly, are happy and proudly represent their school in a wide range of extra curricular activities. Children spoke very eloquently in a refreshingly simple and sincere way about the power and purpose of prayer and faith in their Christian school. One child remarked that Christian values provide a base line for life. Vibrant displays decorate all available spaces and Christian artefacts and symbols are prominent in many areas. The monumental display in the entrance and hall helps the learning community to appreciate its place in a global context.

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

The impact of Collective Worship on this school community is good and makes a significant contribution to the daily lives of the learners and their spiritual development. Planning is thorough and comprehensive. The Christian based themes are wholly appropriate and are skilfully made accessible to the range of children involved. Worship is enriched by the use of visitors and a regular clergy input. Frequent liaison ensures the maintenance of quality and a coherent approach. The children are attentive and participate in a positive way. They are familiar with a range of prayers and songs which are enthusiastically sung. The technical equipment which provides an excellent visual and sound support is competently operated by the children. A judicious blend of humour and reverence makes for an uplifting spiritual experience. The school should now endeavour to give this important aspect commensurate emphasis in its school brochure and should extend the collective worship policy to incorporate a fully inclusive monitoring process.

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

In this area the school is outstanding. The school enjoys a happy, committed and highly motivated staff team lead by a headteacher who is a consummate professional and supported by a first class governing body which carries out its responsibilities with sensitivity and rigour. Governors take responsibility for curriculum areas and aspects of management. They support but challenge the school to strive for continual improvement. The teaching of RE is skilful and has a positive impact on the attitudes and interactions of learners. The headteacher knows her school well and the self evaluation which was honest and accurate enjoyed a collegiate approach. There is an excellent collaborative team spirit, the adults are good role models and provide direction for the high expectations of behaviour, care and respect which characterises the school. Charitable fundraising is seen as an important element of the school's Christian outreach. The school is seen as a focus for the community providing a venue for joint Anglican/Methodist services and a prayer group as well as welcoming the public to share the school's celebration of the major Christian festivals, in all of which staff and governors play a prominent part.

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