

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

<p>Highburton Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School Northfield Lane Highburton Huddersfield HD8 0QT Wakefield Diocese Kirklees LEA SIAS Inspection: 15th November 2005. Date of last inspection: 30th– 31st January 2001. School's Unique reference number: 107715 Name of Headteacher: Mr. R.A. Hobbs. SIAS Inspector Mrs. Lynn Alvy.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">School Context</p> <p>Highburton First School currently educates 172 pupils from reception to Year 5 when pupils leave to attend the local middle school. The pupils are taught in six classes and whilst there is no nursery provision at the school the majority of pupils have experienced some pre-school provision. Attainment when pupils start reception is broadly average. There are few pupils from minority ethnic groups, low numbers of pupils are eligible for free school meals and few pupils are identified as having learning difficulties or disabilities. Pupils attend the school from other areas as well as from Highburton village. This is a popular school that is highly valued within the community</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Judgement</p> <p>Highburton is outstanding in its distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church School.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Established Strengths</p> <p>The excellent care, guidance and support for all pupils set within the context of a joyful and worshipping school. The strong promotion of Christian values through partnership with governors, parents, church and community. The outstanding leadership of the headteacher in 'living the Christian values' that provides a solid foundation for the continuing support and development of respect and spirituality within the school.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Focus for development</p> <p>To extend the self-evaluation process by the headteacher, staff and governors through building on the successful monitoring and evaluation strategies already in place in order to ensure the continuing high quality of the school's Christian character.</p>

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, makes excellent provision to meet the needs of all its learners. The promotion of Christian values is embedded strongly within the celebration and valuing of achievement for each individual within the school. Excellent relationships exist between adults and adults and pupils. Parents speak highly of the care, support and guidance given to children during their time at the school. Supported by the Christian principles of respect for others and value for each individual, pupils regularly display exemplary behaviour and attitudes to learning. They thoroughly enjoy and participate fully in the Christian life of the school. Pupils from the youngest to the oldest express themselves confidently because they feel safe and can take 'risks' without fear of failure. Initiatives such as the school council, involvement in fund raising and with events in the local church and community prepare pupils very effectively for the next stage in their education. The cornerstone of the school is the high quality of its Christian Foundation that serves all its pupils extremely well.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding. Collective Worship plays a pivotal role in feeding the spiritual growth and life of the school. It is of a consistently high quality, very comprehensively and jointly planned across the school year and led very effectively at different times by all the staff. Pupils talk about Collective Worship with enthusiasm, interest and enjoyment and look forward to regular visits by the local incumbent who provides a very successful link between school, church, home and community. Insightful comments, in the questionnaires used by staff to monitor its impact, show pupils' clear understanding for instance of how they learn to worship God, to be a Christian and to help others. Acts of collective worship provide for the spiritual and moral development of all pupils through the imaginative opportunities used to celebrate pupils' talents and to allow pupils time to reflect on the importance of worship and prayer for them personally.

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 are outstanding. The foundation governors provide very strong support for the headteacher and staff through their understanding and care for the promotion of the Christian character of the school. Alongside the headteacher they are instrumental in forging strong links with parents, the church and the community. They help to focus the Christian ethos of the governing body and the Christian needs and traditions of the school. In the headteacher's own words 'the governing body are the rock, the base that supports the school'. The headteacher takes an excellent lead in nurturing pupils' self esteem, encouraging their academic and spiritual growth within an inclusive community based on strong Christian principles. There is very effective liaison between staff responsible for Collective Worship, Religious Education and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education. This ensures that planning for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted consistently not only through the Christian ethos and life of the school, but also through the curriculum. There is a culture of self-evaluation within the school that supports the celebration of achievement of all those involved with the school and underpins the school's commitment to serve its community through its Christian mission.

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