

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Husthwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Low Street
HUSTHWAITE
YORK
YO6 3TA

Diocese: York

LA: North Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 3-04-06

Date of last inspection: February 2000

School's Unique reference number: 121502

Headteacher: Mr. I. Yapp

Inspector's name and number: NS129 Mr. J.W. Bradley

School context

Husthwaite C.E. Primary School has 115 pupils on roll, plus 13 in the nursery. It is situated south of Thirsk in a rural situation, serving four villages and neighbouring farms. Over half of the pupils come from outside the normal catchment area and a large majority are White British.

Summary Judgement

Husthwaite C.E. Primary is a good church school, whose links with its church and its Christian heritage are given high priority. In the school's recently published 'Our Vision', Christian values, links with its church and Collective Worship are all given prominence. The atmosphere, as shown by the relationships within it, is clearly that of a caring Christian community where there is respect for all connected with the school. The school's Christian values are much appreciated by its parents.

Established strengths

- The schools 'core principles' which highlight the Christian values which should underpin all areas of school life.
- The relationship with its church and an incumbent who gives the school a great deal of support.
- The approach of the headteacher towards the development of Husthwaite's role as a Church School.

Focus for development

- The development of closer monitoring and evaluation of the teaching of Religious Education.
- More regular and formalised evaluation of the school's progress towards the aims and values outlined in its 'Vision' and 'Core Principles'.
- To develop a more appropriate reverential atmosphere during worship, including more use of collective prayer and reflection.

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

The school meets the needs of its learners in a good way. The school is very supportive of all its pupils and staff and there is a genuine commitment to this being within the framework of a caring Christian community. The school is a pleasant place to be where it is evident from the atmosphere and relationships that all feel valued and cared for. The relationship with its church and incumbent make it very clear that this is a school with a clear Christian role with the needs of the children at its heart. Relationships throughout are good and the school is valued by its parents and community. The development of a weekly meeting to discuss children's pastoral needs is much to be commended and once again shows the schools commitment to its caring role. Foundation Governors are aware of their role in relation to church school status and this is beneficial to the further development of the school's vision which is child centred.

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

Collective Worship currently has a good impact upon the school community and is perceived as an important part of the school's function. It is well supported by all staff, giving the impact of the whole community worshipping together. It is clearly a Christian occasion, very good use is made of visiting clergy and the Anglican perspective is well developed by the incumbent. All of these show the children the importance of Worship in their school. Use is made of local churches for services at important times in the church year and good work is being done to develop joint

services with parents and the community with the aim of having more of a sense of Worship. The Acts of Worship are well supported by focal points and candles but more use could be made of prayers said 'all together' plus time allocated for reflection. The pupils enjoyed the worship, but there was not at all times a suitably reverential atmosphere.

How effective is the religious education?

The effectiveness of RE is satisfactory, with development required regarding the monitoring and assessment of teaching. The school has a committed co-ordinator who is working hard to develop the subject. The effect of R.E. teaching and children's knowledge of the Easter story was well illustrated during Worship and children showed evidence of relating subject matter to real life situations such as caring for others and good relationships. There is a good developmental relationship with the incumbent who is the Link Governor, as well as with local churches. Some good work is currently underway in the local primary school cluster regarding multi-culturalism and this will require further development. R.E. is given high priority in this Church School and has a good effect upon whole school ethos by its stress upon caring, sharing and positive behaviour strategies. Further work is required regarding links between the schemes of work currently being used and classroom teaching. It is important that the experienced co-ordinator is allocated sufficient time to monitor delivery and outcome.

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 good with some outstanding features. The school, ably led by its headteacher, now has a clear vision of its future role as a Church School and the work done by staff, governors, parents and pupils to develop this strategy has already been beneficial. The governors are well led and clear with regard to their role, which is always supportive. The challenge now for the school is to build further upon what is a good foundation. There is a real sense of will and purpose from governors and staff and the school's qualities are much appreciated by its parents. The influence of the incumbent has an outstanding impact upon Husthwaite as a Church School and his ideas for future developments concerning church and school links, parish use of the school building and pastoral care are much welcomed by staff and governors.

SIAS report April 2006 Husthwaite C.E. (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School Low Street HUSTHWAITE YORK YO6 3TA