

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Hutton Henry Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hutton Henry
Hartlepool
Cleveland
TS27 4RY

Diocese: Durham

LA: Durham

Dates of inspection: 4 May 2006

Date of last inspection: 26, 28 & 29 June 2000

School's Unique reference number: 114232

Headteacher: Mrs Jill Jones

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Jean Peart

School context

Hutton Henry Church of England School is a small school of 42 children, taught in two classes. All except one are White British. The school serves a wide rural area and is situated in a small village.

Summary Judgement

This is a good school, in which the positive Christian ethos provides an effective and distinctive learning environment for pupils' spiritual and moral development. Its small size has been turned into one of the school's strengths, as pupils are treated very much as individuals and everyone celebrates the caring, family atmosphere, which is firmly based on Christian values.

Established strengths

- The headteacher is outstanding in her Christian vision for the school.
- The school is welcoming and children are happy, valued by staff as individuals and confident to express their feelings and opinions.
- Governors are strongly supportive of the school's Christian foundation and Christian ethos.
- Relationships between school and the local priest and Church community are very good.
- Parents have a high regard for the school as a Church school.

Focus for development

- Establish a worship team to consolidate and explore both long-term and short-term planning and to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship.
- Develop children's active participation in collective worships, particularly in the Eucharist service.
- Establish links with other faith communities to further develop children's spiritual and cultural awareness.

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

The school's provision for the needs of all learners, through its distinctive Christian character, is good.

Children of all ages and abilities are happy, safe and enjoy school. Special educational needs children are well integrated and all children are valued as individuals. The Student Council develops social awareness and children are confident that their views are listened to, considered and acted upon. The weekly 'Thinking Questions' are considered seriously by all and develop children's spiritual and moral awareness well. Children's spiritual development is heightened by staff's thoughtful use of the school environment. The impressive outside play area was used with enthusiasm by Key Stage 1 and Reception children to create water art and to explore colours for painting in nature. Relationships between staff and children are very good and are underpinned by Christian values of respect and caring for each other. Behaviour is very good and older children care for younger. For example, a year 6 boy opened the door for a Reception child and welcomed her into the breakfast club, making her feel immediately comfortable. Parents feel that the school has a special quality that is distinctively Christian and that it provides children with a caring, supportive ethos, in which they are encouraged to help others. Children spoke enthusiastically of their work producing gift boxes for children in Lesotho. Achievement is celebrated in a weekly celebration assembly, which is very popular with the children. The 'blue sweatshirt' is worn with pride by the Pupil of the Week

and is viewed with admiration by the other children. A commemorative trophy, donated by parents to remember their son, is presented termly and is awarded to people 'who help to make our school a caring, happy place'. Children work collaboratively and co-operatively in many after school clubs, with almost the whole school taking part in the Gadget Club. Very good use is made of the local church for special services and curriculum enrichment and the local priest regularly leads worship in school. He has delivered a programme of R.E. lessons, which lead to confirmation for those children who wished to be confirmed.

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

Collective worship has a good impact on the life of the school. School worship plays a significant part in school life. Foundation governors understand their responsibilities and actively support school worship. School worship is well planned by the headteacher to reflect the needs of the school and the Christian calendar. There is a daily act of morning worship in school and children enter and leave the hall listening to music, which evokes a quiet, reflective atmosphere. Sensitive use is made of lighting the candle, the prayer tree and passing the peace during the worship. Prayers are also said at lunchtime and home-time. Children have a positive attitude to worship and during one whole school worship they participated with gusto in their singing, their interaction with the story and in saying The Lord's Prayer. The parish priest is a regular leader of school worship and the parish church is used as a venue for special festivals. There is a monthly school Eucharist service held in the church, which children look forward to. Parents appreciate and support the impact of the Christian worship on the ethos of the school and also praise the school's openness about religion and the fact that children are taught to understand and respect other people's faiths.

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 headteacher places Christian values and Christian ethos at the heart of the school and the impact of this on the children's spiritual, moral and emotional development is significant. Staff feel valued and contribute substantially to the caring, family atmosphere. Governors work closely with the headteacher and ensure that the forward progression of the school is underpinned by its Christian foundation. They are involved in monitoring, evaluating and developing the Christian dimension of school life. Because of falling rolls, governors have formed a Marketing and Publicity Committee, which is successfully promoting the school first and foremost as a Church of England school. The school's Christian purpose is communicated to parents in the recently reviewed Mission Statement, which is displayed in the entrance, and in school documentation. The headteacher and parish priest are committed to continuing to develop the strong relationship that already exists between the school and the church. Parents appreciate the caring Christian environment, which they see as impacting positively on their children's whole development.

SIAS report May 2006 school Hutton Henry C.E. Controlled Primary Hutton Henry Hartlepool Cleveland TS27 4RY