

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Kirk Hammerton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

St John's Grove,
Kirk Hammerton,
York,
YO26 8DE

Diocese: Ripon and Leeds

LA: North Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 24th March 2006

Date of last inspection: 11th – 14th January 2000

School's Unique reference number: 121572

Headteacher: Mr Paul O' Rourke

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Fiona Beevers

School context

Kirk Hammerton C of E Primary school is a small rural school of 60 pupils organised into three classes. Most of the pupils live in the local village, which is in a mainly prosperous area and although pupils come from a range of socio-economic backgrounds no pupils in the school are eligible for free school meals. There are very few children from minority ethnic groups in the school. The present headteacher has been in post since September 2005; this is the third change in headteacher since the last inspection in January 2000.

Summary Judgement

Kirk Hammerton is faithful to its Christian foundation and its effectiveness as a church school is satisfactory overall with some good features. There have been several changes of headteacher in the past five years and this has hampered the school's progress since its last inspections in January 2000. The new headteacher has established systems for school improvement however these are not yet developed for monitoring and evaluating the Christian dimensions of the life of the school. Governors and key members of staff are aware of this and are becoming more pro-active in moving the school forward.

Established strengths

- The Christian care and concern for all members of the school community which creates a secure and happy environment.
- The commitment to providing a broad education which values individuals and encourages different interests and abilities
- The active support of parents, governors and members of the wider community enjoyed by the school

Focus for development

- Develop the monitoring and evaluation role of foundation governors
- Explore ways of developing further links with the Parish and other Christian churches to enhance collective worship and spiritual development
- Embed stated school aims e.g. "we want our collective worship to be the heartbeat of the school" in the total life of the school community
- Extend opportunities for pupils to learn about and from other faith traditions in order to better prepare them for life in a multi cultural society
- Revise the school's prospectus so that it accurately describes the place and content of collective worship as separate from religious education in order to emphasise the distinctive nature of a Controlled school

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners in a satisfactory way.

Overall the school provides satisfactory provision for learners. Although the majority of pupils make at least satisfactory progress, more able pupils do not achieve to their full potential. The school provides opportunities for a broadly based education which encourages and develops a range of skills, particularly in music and sport. This aspect of the school is valued by pupils and parents.

The pupils' personal and social education is generally good. Pupils express themselves confidently and naturally. They demonstrate care and respect for one another and there is a strong 'family' ethos throughout the school, particularly in the

ways older pupils take responsibility for younger children. Pupils have an understanding of right and wrong and of the traditions of the school which relate to its Christian foundation. The contribution of spiritual development to a healthy lifestyle is included in the school's Healthy Schools' award action plan.

Themed days to celebrate Chinese New Year and a French Day, residential and educational visits contribute to pupils' social and cultural development. However cultural development is satisfactory as there is insufficient opportunity for pupils to learn about and learn from different faith perspectives.

Members of the school community, including parents and governors speak warmly of the quality of relationships within school which are characterised by Christian care and concern.

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

The quality of collective worship is satisfactory with some good features.

Themes for collective worship are planned on a termly basis by teaching staff and are consistently Christian. Children participate readily and contribute confidently through reading, drama and playing musical instruments. An act of collective worship observed, led by the co-ordinator, was well planned with a clear Christian message which engaged all pupils. There was clear distinction made between worship elements and other aspects which celebrated the efforts and achievements of pupils. However, the adults in school do not benefit from such times as staff do not regularly attend collective worship unless it is their day to lead it. This is at odds with the school's stated aim to 'make collective worship a central feature of each school day'. There are regular links with the parish church, the incumbent leads collective worship in school on a weekly basis. In addition, the school attends services held in the church to celebrate key Christian festivals and special times in the school year. These provide opportunities for children to encounter aspects of the Anglican tradition including an Ascension Day Eucharist. However, greater use could be made of the links with both the Parish and Methodist churches to further enhance collective worship.

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 satisfactory.

The headteacher and the governors provide sound leadership of the school overall and there are satisfactory systems for planning, monitoring and evaluating school improvement. Governors make regular visits to school formally and informally and are increasingly pro active in developing policies and procedures. Governors are proud of the school's Christian foundation; however the foundation governors' role of monitoring, evaluating and developing the Christian dimension of the school is, at present, underdeveloped.

The school has links with the Parish and local Methodist Churches and is seen as an important part of the community. A significant number of children from the school participate in the monthly "Saturday Club" organised by members of the Parish Church. There are plans to hold a joint church, school and playgroup summer event to further promote school, church, community links.

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