

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Linby-cum-Papplewick Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Quarry Lane

Linby

Nottinghamshire

NG15 8GA

Diocese: Southwell & Nottingham

LA: Nottinghamshire

Dates of inspection: 17th – 18th July 2006

Date of last inspection: 5th – 7th July 2000

School's Unique reference number: 122807

Headteacher: Mr. D. Conidi

Inspector's name and number: NS177: Mr. J. Horwood

School context

A small and popular primary school in a rural location where a significant number of pupils live outside the villages. All pupils speak English as their first language and the number of pupils who have learning difficulties or disabilities is about average for the size of school. The 117 pupils are taught in 4 mixed age classes.

Summary Judgement

Linby-cum-Papplewick Primary School is an outstanding Church of England School whose self assessment as a Church school is very accurate.

Established strengths

- Christian faith is at the heart of the school and all it provides
- A caring family environment where both staff and pupils can talk freely and openly about their religious beliefs.
- An outstanding relationship with the local church community and a strong partnership with parents.
- Outstanding spiritual and moral development of pupils resulting from a well planned curriculum and outstanding leadership and teaching.

Focus for development

Continue the process of self assessment and maintain the determination to improve this outstanding school still further for the benefit of pupils.

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

The Christian character of the school ensures that the needs of all learners are outstandingly met. The school is a safe, secure and happy environment where Christian values are fundamental to the very good relationships which exist between both adults and children. The status of the school as a 'Church School', of which it is proud, is highly visible to the community and parents are told clearly what this means through a very detailed prospectus and at meetings for new parents. The school badge and crest on documents clearly reflect the Christian character of the school as do wall displays and resources within the school. Pupils sit in 'family groups' at lunchtime and this develops outstanding peer support with the older pupils supporting and guiding the younger ones to ensure their social needs are met. All lessons and activities are inclusive and aimed at developing the 'whole child' and parents identify the mixed year group classes as a strength which supports this. Pupils identify how inclusive this school is by saying 'everyone is equal in this school'. Prayers are an important part of the day for all pupils and staff. The personal development of pupils, including spiritual and moral development, is outstanding. Pupils are mature and confident and given responsibilities in the school appropriate to their age. Pupils contribute to school life through an effective school council which considers how effective aspects of this 'Church School' are. Whilst not all parents are members of the local church most choose the school because it is a 'Church School' and the benefits this brings. The caring staff present excellent role models for the children.

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

The impact of collective worship is outstanding. Collective worship is a regular and important part of school life which is well planned and resourced. Although collective worship takes place in the multi-purpose school hall very good use of mobile resources is made to create a very good environment for worship. Worship is led by a variety of speakers including the headteacher, the deputy headteacher, the local rector and a number of visitors. Whilst all staff do not, at present, attend all worship

sessions they are fully involved with prayer sessions with pupils at other times during the day. Pupils are actively involved in the collective worship and they join in the prayers, many of which they have written themselves, and songs with enthusiasm. One outstanding assembly seen was arranged and led by pupils at their request following a 'Godly Play' session. Pupils are attentive during collective worship and take the opportunities for reflection very seriously. Pupils can not only recount the content of many past collective worship sessions but also explain the meaning of them. The links with the church are very strong and pupils regularly visit both the local church for services as well as other churches. Pupils have actively participated in the production of 'Who is this Jesus' with three local parishes. The impact of prayer on all members of the school community is clearly very strong with pupils proudly contributing prayers for the 'prayer wall'. Staff and parents participate in prayer groups to support the work of the school. A large number of parents attend the Friday assemblies in school and many parents have developed stronger links with the church as a result of their children's involvement.

How effective is the religious education?

The effectiveness of Religious Education (R.E) is outstanding. The R.E. Co-ordinator is a dedicated and experience specialist who herself has a very strong faith. Her leadership is excellent and she has worked with the Diocese and with SACRE in developing the new syllabus. R.E. has a high profile within the school which is reflected by its prominence in the prospectus and the attention paid to it by governors. Regular assessments of progress in R.E. are carried out by the class teachers and show that pupils achieve as well as or better in this than in other subjects. Lessons seen during the inspection confirm the school's judgements that teaching and learning in R.E. are excellent and that the pupils benefit from enjoyable and imaginative lessons. The school has piloted using 'Godly Play' once each half-term as part of the curriculum provision. This has developed pupils' strategies for reflection significantly and also enables them to more easily discuss and understand religious and moral issues. All pupils participate in the 'Godly Play' activities with dedication and confidence and produce high quality imaginative work in the follow up sessions. Spiritual, moral and social development as a result of 'Godly Play' and the R.E. provision are outstanding. Other faiths and cultures are examined as part of the R.E. provision and pupils talk confidently about their social and moral issues.

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 provides inspirational outstanding leadership of the school and is very well supported by dedicated staff and governors. Collective worship and R.E. co-ordination are outstanding. Parents speak very highly of the leadership and management of the school. The school's Christian purpose is extremely clear and all staff take an active part in developing and evaluating the school mission which is shared by all parties. Staff are encouraged and supported in attending appropriate training provided by the Diocese and the local education authority. The headteacher and many governors are very active within the local parish and the local rector is chair of governors at the school. Foundation governors fulfil their role extremely well and all the governors are involved in ensuring the distinctive Christian character of the school is maintained and developed. All policies are reviewed regularly to ensure that the needs of all pupils are being met and that changes in legislation are incorporated. Staff and governors are jointly involved in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of collective worship. New initiatives such as 'Godly Play' demonstrate that the staff and governors are very active in investigating, and willing to adopt, new methods that will increase the opportunities for pupils within the school. All of the issues from the last inspection have been fully addressed.

SIAS report July 2006 Linby-cum-Papplewick Quarry Lane Linby Nottinghamshire NG15 8GA