

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Longridge Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Berry Lane,
Longridge,
Preston,
PR3 3JA

Diocese: Blackburn

LA: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 5th April 2006

Date of last inspection: 7th July 2000

School's Unique reference number: 119568

Headteacher: Mr. M. Collins

Inspector's name and number: Mr. W.J. Holliday

School context

Longridge Church of England Primary School is situated in a small market town west of Preston in Lancashire. There are 206 pupils on roll most of whom live in the immediate neighbourhood or in nearby rural village communities. Almost all pupils are from white British heritage.

Summary Judgement

Longridge C.E. School is an outstanding Church of England school with a very strong and distinctive caring Christian ethos. The pupils benefit greatly in their learning and personal development from the positive support and encouragement they receive in school and from the very high level of care provided.

Established strengths

- The very positive distinctive Christian ethos of the school, the very effective leadership of the headteacher and the strong commitment of the governors, headteacher and staff to the continued development of the school for the benefit of all pupils.
- The excellent links between the school, the church and the wider community
- The high quality of relationships within school, between pupils, between staff and pupils, amongst the very committed staff team and with other members of the school community.
- The very effective leadership by the subject coordinator for Religious Education.

Focus for development

- To continue to build upon the good work already undertaken to develop a school portfolio of work for Religious Education, matched to national standards, and to continue the planned development of assessment in R.E. so that it is secure throughout school.
- To explore ways to develop further the multi-cultural awareness of pupils so that provision for cultural development matches the outstanding provision for spiritual, moral and social development.
- As part of the very good arrangements for planning Collective Worship, ensure that evaluations are recorded so as to inform future planning and delivery.

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

The school makes outstanding provision through its distinctive Christian character to meet the needs of all its learners. The children are extremely happy in school. Learners from all groups feel valued and special and enjoy the very effective way in which the school recognizes and celebrates their achievements, including 'special mentions assemblies', the stars notice board, a 'Class pride' award and mentions in the local weekly press. Christian values underpin the life and work of the school. They are evident in the excellent relationships between pupils, whose behaviour is very good, between staff and pupils, and amongst the staff who provide very good role models. Relationships with the wider school community, including the church, are also extremely good and the school has benefited greatly from the support of the clergy from the parish church. The Christian ethos is very well represented throughout the school in exciting displays of work, a good proportion of which are linked to work in R.E. and to themes in Collective worship. The focus display used in both the entrance hall and in collective worship very effectively represents the strong

Christian ethos and this is further enhanced by banners in the hall. In classrooms good use is made of display areas which include Christian symbols, prayers and graces to be used by the pupils. The Christian ethos makes outstanding provision for the spiritual, social and moral development of pupils and good provision overall for cultural development. The latter has been identified as an area for development and the school should explore making links which broaden the pupil's experience of other cultures. This might include linking with pupils at another school, with the wider Christian community, or with some part of the World wide church.

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

Collective worship makes an outstanding impact on the school community. Worship occupies an extremely important place in the life of the school and is a very key element in its Christian witness. Worship is extremely well planned, includes a very good balance of topics and makes excellent provision for moral as well as spiritual development. Worship is recognisably Christian and honours the Anglican tradition. There is a good mix of whole school and Key Stage worship and very good use is made of the parish church, for monthly worship, end of term services, celebrations of major Christian festivals, and for Key Stage Eucharists held in the Summer term. Members of the clergy also lead regular weekly Collective Worship in school. Worship enables pupils to develop their understanding of the Christian faith, to build upon their own knowledge and experience, and also make links to their learning in R.E. Opportunities are provided for reflection and good use is made of prayers and responses, including using the Lord's Prayer. Excellent use is made of information technology in some acts of worship and this is greatly appreciated by the pupils who demonstrate great enjoyment at the material which is very skilfully presented. The children take responsibilities well in worship, with older pupils preparing the hall, and operating ICT equipment. Classes enjoy presenting parts of worship, as in the very successful series of Lent assemblies linked to a topic on 'People who help us', and good use is made of drama. The children take part in worship enthusiastically and are confident in expressing their thoughts and ideas. They enjoy contributing to worship in singing, reading or saying prayers. The good links with the parish church are exemplified by an annual Education Sunday service led by the staff and pupils which is greatly appreciated by the congregation.

How effective is the religious education?

Religious education is outstanding. Religious Education has a very high profile as is evident in the excellent displays of pupils work around the school. The school makes excellent use of the Diocesan syllabus including assessment activities in units of work. There is an appropriate balance between Christianity and the other World faiths studied; Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. In R.E. lessons effective use is made of drama and the children are provided with good opportunities to learn from religion as well as learning about Christianity and other faiths. Younger children have enjoyed learning about other faith celebrations such as Diwali and the Chinese New Year. Very good use is made of experiential learning in the reception class as was seen in a lesson where they re-enacted the last supper as part of their learning about the Easter story. Older children have enjoyed celebrating Succoth and sharing a Seder meal together. Good use is made of discussion and partner work in lessons and excellent use is made of I.C.T. , as was seen in a lesson where clips from the 'Miracle Maker' were used as a stimulus to think about the feelings of characters in the Easter story. Good work is evident in children's books and files and a useful portfolio is being developed by the excellent subject coordinator, enabling work to be measured against the national standards for R.E. The coordinator provides very good support for teachers in planning and evaluating units of work, in providing advice on resources and in monitoring the output from pupils. She has also provided useful in-service training as the school seeks to further develop assessment in religious education, so that it is secure throughout the school. Monitoring does not yet include observation of teaching.

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 outstanding. The Headteacher provides very effective leadership of the school as a Church school. Through his close working partnership with the Governors, including parish clergy, a very distinctive Christian ethos has been established which is of great

benefit to the pupils. The school mission statement and documentation clearly communicate the Christian vision for the school and a commitment to the provision and celebration of an excellent education in a Christian context. The staff work extremely well as a team and are very committed to working together in the development of the Christian ethos and for the benefit of the pupils. The governors are extremely supportive of the work of the school and act effectively as 'critical friends' monitoring activities based mainly on evidence provided by the school. More opportunities should be made to build upon existing monitoring arrangements so that governors can observe work in school. Parents are regularly asked for their views of the school in the form of questionnaires and informally at other times. Parents value the school highly and are very supportive of the Christian ethos. The self evaluation of the school as a Church school is secure and the school is in a very strong position to continue to develop.

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