

Lytham Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Park View Road
Lytham St. Annes
Lancashire
FY 8 4HA

Diocese of Blackburn

Lancashire LEA

SIAS inspection: 5 December 2005

Previous S23 inspection: 1 September 19992000

URN: 119551

Headteacher: Mrs. Nicola Worrad

SIAS Inspector NS: Mr. Neville Norcross

Context

Lytham C of E is an average sized primary school. It is an aided school with links to two local parishes. The school is situated in an area of economic advantage and the number of pupils with learning difficulties is below the national average. Overall attainment when pupils begin school is in line with the national average. At the time of the inspection the school had an acting headteacher and deputy headteacher.

Summary Judgement

Lytham C of E School is a good church school. It has a distinctively Christian character which enables all learners to feel valued and to achieve their full potential.

Established strengths

- The positive relationships between all members of the school community, which are based upon Christian values.
- The effectiveness of the school in gathering and responding to the views of all pupils, parents and staff.
- The school environment, both within and outside the building, is extremely attractive and has a positive impact upon the ethos of the school
- The effectiveness of the subject co-ordinator for RE

Focus for development

- In order to build upon current strengths in religious education, further develop the arrangements for assessing the standards achieved.
- In order to further enhance the quality of worship, extend the range of songs used and provide more opportunities for times of quiet reflection
- Work alongside the foundation governors to develop the school's links with the two foundation parishes

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

The way in which the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners is good. The relationships between all members of the school community are friendly and supportive and this helps the pupils and adults alike to feel valued and special. These relationships are based very clearly upon Christian values, which the school reinforces through links with the PSHE curriculum. The school has responded positively to the Every Child Matters initiative and this helps to ensure that the children's personal needs are being met. The children have a strong sense of right and wrong and their moral development is very good. The school operates very well as a community. It has good links with local community and supports both national and international charities. This has a strong impact on the pupils social development, which is very good.

The provision for pupils' spiritual and cultural development is satisfactory. The school is very good in the way that it seeks the views of all stakeholders and it is clear from the responses that it is recognised as a school which bases its policies and practices on Christian values and teaching.

What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. Worship is an important feature of school life. Worship is led by different members of staff and by visitors which provides the pupils with a variety of worship styles. The children were very positive about the role of visitors in worship. Pupils views of worship are positive ones. During acts of worship they behave very well and listen attentively to the prayers and stories. They understand the importance of worship for a believer.

They believe that their contributions to daily worship are valued and they welcome those occasions when they can play an active part. They enjoy singing and would welcome the opportunity to sing a wider variety of songs. The worship is well-planned. The school provides a broad and balanced range of themes which enable the children to experience Bible stories, events from the Christian calendar and important concepts such as love and forgiveness. Each class has a worship area of its own. This has been introduced recently and at the moment its impact upon the children is limited.

How effective is the Religious Education in the school?

The effectiveness of religious education is good. The teaching is good and effective use is made of ICT. Children have positive views about religious education and the standards they achieve are good. The pupils' books are marked regularly and the children receive encouraging comments which enable them to build upon their achievements. Procedures for assessing children's work in religious education are at an early stage of development. The teachers use open-ended questions which challenge the pupils to think reflectively about the topics they are studying.

The pupils themselves commented upon the fact that they are encouraged to express their opinions and that their opinions are valued by the teachers. The school follows the Blackburn Diocesan scheme of work which ensures that the pupils receive a balanced and broad programme of work. The subject co-ordinator for religious education has worked hard to raise the profile of religious education within school. She has conducted a thorough audit of provision and is very clear about what needs to be done to maintain and enhance the standards of work. The children's contact with people from different faiths and cultures is an area for development.

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 leadership team have a clear Christian vision for the school and they encourage the whole school community to support this vision.

The procedures for gathering and responding to the views of all members of the school community are outstanding and have a very positive impact upon the school ethos and the family atmosphere which together enable all pupils to feel valued and affirmed.

The school has very good procedures for self-evaluation which, in turn, impact upon the School Improvement Plan . The School Mission Statement is very clear about the Christian foundation of the school and is used in all school documentation. The aims of the school have been reviewed quite recently and a team of people, which included parents and governors, were involved with this process. The parents are very much aware that this is a Christian school and they value the very positive impact which this has upon their children. Following a period of change the school's links with its two foundation parishes are in the early stages of development. Pupil behaviour and attitudes are exemplary and stem from their feelings of self worth which are supported by the school's strong Christian ethos.

SIAS DECEMBER 2005 Lytham CE VA Primary School, Lancashire, FY8 4HA