

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Lythe Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

High Street,
Lythe,
Whitby,
North Yorkshire,
YO21 3RT

Diocese: York

LA: North Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 24-05-06

Date of last inspection: November 1999

School's Unique reference number: 121507

Headteacher: Mrs. A. Foord

Inspector's name and number: NS129 Mr. J.W. Bradley

School context

Lythe Church of England School is very pleasantly situated in this small village to the North of Whitby. All the one hundred pupils are white British with many coming from the village and its immediate surroundings, but there are a large number of applications from outside the recognised catchment area.

Summary Judgement

Lythe Church of England School is a good Church School with some outstanding features, particularly in the areas of Collective Worship and links with its church. Church school status is described by staff and governors as being fundamental to the life of this school. The high level of collaboration between head and governors in ensuring that Christianity is at the centre is outstanding. Relationships in the school are good and children enjoy the varied experiences offered to them.

Established strengths

- The outstanding organisation and resultant impact of Collective Worship.
- The working relationships between head, governors and church.
- The support for the school from parents, church and wider community.

Focus for development

- Development of an extended thematic approach for R.E. to ensure coverage.
- Further development of the evaluative role of Church School status by the Foundation Governors.
- Establishment of regular parish worship in the school during the school day.

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

The school meets the needs of its learners in a good way. This school has very strong links with its parish and community, with a stained glass window provided jointly by the P.C.C. and the Parish Council being testament to this. The impact is that of a much valued school at the heart of its community where all feel cared for and involved. Parents speak highly of the school and its caring nature and children, who are well represented by an active School Council, state that they enjoy being there. Pupils are courteous and well behaved and their relationships with staff, who earn respect by their caring and Christian approach, are very good. There is a good relationship with a Leicester Primary School for multi-cultural links and great importance is attached to charitable giving. The result is a school which looks beyond itself to encourage care and compassion for others. The school's Mission Statement is a result of good consultation between staff, parents and governors, thus giving all concerned with the school a sense of ownership of its Christian aims.

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

Collective Worship has an outstanding impact upon the school community. Worship, and the atmosphere created by it, is a very important feature of this school. All staff regularly lead worship and are present at all times. The importance of this part of the day is thus clearly demonstrated to the children. Members of the local church are also regular leaders which strengthens the fact that this is a Church School. The atmosphere is clearly that of 'Worship' and good singing, time for reflection, well said corporate prayer and suitable focal points, all add considerable value to the occasion. The church's liturgical year is followed by both staff and visitors, thus confirming Anglican status. Worship is well planned and evaluated and children state that they enjoy it. The school's Christianity is clearly demonstrated during Worship with

resultant outstanding affects upon whole school ethos.

How effective is the religious education?

The impact of RE is good. Children in both Key Stages speak knowledgeably about their own and other faiths and are able to relate the teaching to their own lives. The co-ordinator is both enthusiastic and knowledgeable and is undertaking a review of the subject to ensure children in mixed age classes are suitably supported and challenged in their learning.. The Christian values actively encouraged in the teaching of R.E. become very much part of the ethos of Lythe C.E. Children are able to link the teaching with the caring attitudes necessary for a successful, nurturing school. Children's work is of a good standard and produced in a variety of forms, including prose, poetry, art and drama. The children's reciprocal correspondence with pupils at the Leicester school contribute significantly to the impact of the subject, at this rural village school, by developing understanding of other faiths and cultures.

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. Head and governors work well together to develop a clear Christian ethos for this school. This is also done in conjunction with parental questionnaires and 'open' parents' forums. A recent long interregnum was successfully managed by active support from both Foundation Governors and Church members. The governing body is well led by a relatively new Chair and the 'critical friend' elements are much appreciated by the headteacher. The practice of the headteacher in actively consulting with governors is equally appreciated. Governors are regular visitors in school, both in class and at Worship, which raises the profile of Church School status. Foundation Governors are properly aware of their role in a Church School. The impact of the management for children is a happy, caring, supportive and thriving school, with a Christian ethos at its centre.

SIAS report May 2006 Lythe C.E. (Controlled) Primary, High Street, Lythe, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 3RT