

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Oswaldtwistle St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Springfield Street

Oswaldtwistle

Accrington

BB5 3 LG

Diocese: Blackburn

Local Authority: Lancashire

Headteacher: Mrs C. Wilkinson

Inspection date: 28th February, 2006

Date of previous inspection 8th – 11th November, 1999

Inspector: Mrs G.L.Lewis

School context

St Andrew's school is one of several primary schools in Oswaldtwistle. Most pupils live in the immediate vicinity of the school. Pupils enter the school with broadly average attainment; many having spent twelve months in the school's nursery. A number of pupils, from other primary schools in the area, have joined the school in the juniors. There are very few pupils from minority ethnic groups. At present there are 170 pupils on roll in seven, single age classes.

Summary Judgement

Established strengths

- The Christian example and commitment of the Head teacher and the Senior Leadership Team.
- The Christian ethos supported by the incumbent and the governing body
- The good behaviour and caring attitude of pupils

Focus for development

- The evaluation of Collective Worship
- Increase the number of signs and symbols to show that St Andrew's is a Church School

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

The way in which St. Andrew's, through its distinctive Christian ethos, meets the needs of all learners is good. This is demonstrated in the relationships within the school. Pupils are treated with respect and their work is celebrated in displays and at regular weekly 'celebration assemblies'. Pupils with special educational needs are well supported and make good progress. Pupils who have been transferred from other schools, because of difficulties, are well integrated and behaviour is improved. Higher attaining pupils do not always reach their full potential as expectations are not high enough in some year groups. There is a calm working atmosphere in the school. The development of the 'buddies system' provides opportunities for older pupils to give practical care to the younger pupils; Year 6 pupils spoken to enjoy the

responsibility. Pupils are confident and are proud of their school. The vicar leads collective worship once a week and is obviously a familiar visitor, as demonstrated by the number of pupils who look pleased to see him. When children visit the church he is involved in their teaching and learning.

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

Collective worship is good and is an important feature of each school day. A small cross is placed on the table or piano at the beginning of worship. Pupils' response to collective worship is very positive, they listen attentively and participate enthusiastically in question and answer sessions. Pupils' behaviour during Acts of Collective Worship is exceptional. They join in singing and prayers and obviously enjoy opportunities to participate. Year 6 pupils operate the display and organise the hall without prompting or direct supervision. There is detailed effective planning and resources are extensive; enabling all staff to lead worship. The Worship seen provided pupils with good examples of Christian behaviour with reference to Bible stories as well as the personal experiences of the leaders. Collective worship, together with the prayers at lunch-time and the end of day, makes a valuable contribution to pupils' spiritual development. The Christian example given by staff in caring for others, reinforces the good moral and social development of pupils. There are opportunities within the planned Collective Worship for non-Christian faiths to be represented and special festivals are marked. A recent student teacher placement gave the school the opportunity to explore Islam. At present there is no evaluation of Collective worship.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

The effectiveness of the leadership of the headteacher and senior leadership team is good and contributes significantly to the management of the school as a church school. The mission statement and written policies reinforce the school's Christian purpose. There is a good relationship with the parish church, and church members are involved in helping children read and also raising funds. Relationships within the school are very good. Staff feel valued and contribute substantially to the very good extra curricular provision. Pupils spoken to were very appreciative of the lunch time clubs provided and gave an impromptu performance of the dance learned at one of the clubs. The governing body is committed to furthering the Christian ethos of the school through its recruitment and selection procedures. However, several governors are relatively inexperienced and do rely on the headteacher and staff governors at present. The school has a welcoming approach which parents appreciate when making their choices for their children's school. They feel that the school has an atmosphere which enables their children to make good progress.