

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Peak Forest Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Tideswell Road,
Peak Forest,
Nr Buxton
SK17 8EG

Diocese: Derby

LA: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: March 27th 2006

Date of last inspection: November 1999

School's Unique reference number: 112848

Headteacher: David Gordon

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Kate Gough 257

School context

Peak Forest is a small village school with only two classes and 47 children on roll, all white British. The school serves a wide rural area and also attracts children from the nearest town. The children come from a wide range of backgrounds, mostly from the farming community. The original 1868 building has recently been extended to provide a new Foundation Stage/Key Stage One classroom and much needed office space.

Summary Judgement

This school is an outstanding church school with a Christ-centred ethos underpinning every aspect of school life. Working in close partnership with the local church and community it is committed to the development and education of the whole child. High quality acts of worship set the tone for the school day.

Established strengths

- Christian values, taught and demonstrated, impact on relationships and behaviour, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and love
- Strong leadership and committed teamwork combine effectively to move the school forward and enable learners to flourish
- Learners take leading roles in acts of worship and are valued participants in decision-making processes in many areas of school life
- Meaningful links with local church and community contribute towards the school's high reputation well beyond the village.

Focus for development

- In the school brochure and relevant policy documents draw attention to the unique features of the school's Christian foundation and ethos which make it distinctive
- Celebrate the school's Christian foundation by adding a distinctive sign outside and a significant display in the entrance area.

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

The school makes outstanding provision to meet the needs of all its learners. The strong Christian ethos and secure, nurturing environment ensures that all learners, including those with special needs, are cared for as individuals. They in turn show respect and consideration to each other and to adults. The school rules, written by the children, provide a solid framework for encouraging responsible behaviour. Achievement is celebrated and learners feel affirmed and justly proud of their successes. Families experiencing difficulties are supported and appreciate the care and love that they are shown. High priority is given to spiritual, moral and cultural development and every effort is taken to widen the horizons of learners in their appreciation of other cultures and faiths. Learners are open minded and showed considerable maturity when discussing cultural differences. Charitable giving is generous and often child-generated, as in their response to the tsunami tragedy.

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

Collective Worship makes an outstanding contribution on the school community. Learners value Collective Worship and express their appreciation of the opportunities they are given "to learn about God and to pray," both in school and in church. Exceptional care is taken to create "sacred space" with a thought-provoking focus, making excellent use of the interactive white-board. Opening responses from the Anglican tradition lead into worship and learners respond by participating enthusiastically and thoughtfully. Worship is consistently well planned and delivered,

regularly child-led and makes good use of visitors from the parish church and from further afield. The whole school community values and enjoys their contribution. Collective Worship is held in the church on special occasions and active involvement in Sunday worship is encouraged, forging a mutually enriching partnership between church and school.

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 quality of leadership in the school is exceptional and demonstrates a Christ-centred approach which is reflected in every area of school life. The head teacher and staff work as a close team. Governors are very supportive yet not afraid to question and challenge. Communication between school, church and community is effective, ensuring meaningful and mutually beneficial co-operation. The Vicar and other church members praise the school's commitment to the promotion of Christian values and mission. The opinions of learners and their families are actively sought and acted upon wherever possible; they express their confidence in decision-making at school and feel valued as partners in that process. They value the school's Christian foundation and ethos. Although the school brochure clearly sets out its aims, it contains little that identifies the school's unique qualities and Christian purpose. The school's profile and distinctive Christian foundation would be better advertised by the addition of an exterior personalised sign.

SIAS report March 27th 2006 : Peak Forest C of E Primary School, Tideswell Road, Peak Forest, Nr Buxton SK17 8EG