

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Pollington-Balne Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Pollington,  
Goole,  
East Riding of Yorkshire,  
DN14 0DZ

#### Diocese: Sheffield

LA: East Riding of Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Date of last inspection: June 2000

School's Unique reference number: 118044

Headteacher: Mr. R. Dyson

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

#### School context

Pollington-Balne Church of England School is very pleasantly situated between these two villages to the west of Goole. All the pupils are white British with most coming from the villages and immediate surroundings, but there are a small number of applications from outside the recognised area.

#### Summary Judgement

Pollington-Balne Church of England School is a good Church School with some outstanding features, particularly in the area of its distinctive Christian character meeting the needs of all its learners. The Vision Statement and School Aims are clear in showing that Christian values are at the heart of Pollington-Balne C.E. Parents regard the school highly and are grateful for its Christian ethos. Relationships between pupils, staff and pupils and school and its community are also outstanding, as is pupil behaviour.

#### Established strengths

- The outstanding relationships evident throughout the school.
- The impact upon the Christian ethos of Collective Worship.
- The importance afforded to the status of Religious Education.

#### Focus for development

- Governors should regularly evaluate Church School status.
- Worship should be further recorded, assessed and evaluated.
- Completion of the work in progress on the school's own R.E. syllabus.
- Introduction of a wider range of opportunities for children to learn about multi-cultural diversity.

#### 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 an outstanding way. The ethos of this school is overtly Christian. Much consideration is given, particularly by staff, to the values inherent in such an approach. As a result the school is very well thought of by pupils, parents, governors and community. This high regard stems from a school where all children feel valued, cared for and special and where it is clearly stated by staff and governors that everything the school does for all its pupils has Christ's teachings at its centre. Relationships throughout are outstanding and all pupils are well represented by an enthusiastic and articulate School Council. The result is that Pollington-Balne is a school where children enjoy the various experiences offered to them and who learn in a calm, very supportive atmosphere. The children are polite, friendly and welcoming to visitors.

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

Collective Worship has a good impact upon the school community. Worship is a very important aspect of the life of this school. The atmosphere is clearly that of Christian Worship and is well supported by appropriate focal points, well said prayers, good singing and time allowed for reflection. All staff are present, thus confirming the whole community nature of the occasion. Planning is good, using a weekly thematic system and Anglican aspects are well served by following the liturgical year. Currently there is no system for monitoring and evaluation. The impact of Worship is closely linked to whole school ethos and has good effects upon relationships and behaviour. Children speak well of the occasions and clearly enjoy them.

### **How effective is the religious education?**

The impact of RE is good. Its planning and impact upon the ethos of the school are given a very high profile and the new scheme of work, created by and for this school is almost complete. The school's Anglican status is afforded high status in the planning by linking content with the teachings of its church and it is clear to the children that R.E. is far more important than just the subject matter. Consultation by the co-ordinator with staff is evident, with good help from the Incumbent as Link Governor and teaching and learning are rigorously monitored. The teaching of R.E. is described as underpinning everything the school does and it is clear that this is so. Children are knowledgeable, particularly about their own faith, as seen in lessons about Pentecost and the local church and there is good work in a variety of forms, including prose, poetry and drama. There are currently links with a Muslim speaker and a Bradford school, to help children understand other faiths, but these need further development. A good system of children assessing their own work greatly assists the impact and the effects of the subject can be seen in the caring, supportive atmosphere throughout the 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 good. The headteacher, senior management team and staff understand their role in relation to Aided School status and are well assisted as a 'critical friend' by the incumbent who is currently Chair of the Governing Body. The governors do not, as yet, review the impact of the school's clearly Christian ethos. The leadership of the headteacher in particular has a very significant impact upon the Christian vision this school adopts and the various ways in which it is emphasised and implemented. The result is a school which cares for and about its pupils but looks beyond itself, particularly in the importance afforded to charitable giving. Parents are involved in monitoring the school's progress via a system of questionnaires, thus enabling them to have a sense of ownership of their school. The school understands its fairly isolated community and strives to ensure that all pupils are included in its Christian mission, as well as providing a sound education.

SIAS report 13-06-06 Pollington-Balne C.E.(Aided) Primary School, Pollington, Goole, East Riding of Yorkshire, DN14 0DZ