

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St. Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Eden Road
Beverley
East Humberside
HU17 7HD

Diocese : York

LEA: East Riding of Yorkshire

Inspection: 2- 05 - 06

Date of last inspection: October 2000

School's unique reference number: 118030

Headteacher: Miss A. Cottingham

S.I.A.S. Inspector: NS129 Mr. J.W. Bradley

Context of the school

St Mary's C.E. Primary School is situated close to the centre of Beverley, is larger than the average and very few children are from minority ethnic groups. No children speak English as an additional language. The school receives a considerable number of applications from outside its recognised catchment area.

Summary Judgement

St Mary's Primary is a good church school, with some outstanding features, particularly in the impact of its Christian character and Religious Education teaching. The school's linking of its curriculum to children's spiritual development results in an atmosphere where there are always opportunities for reflection and the needs of others are constantly taken into account. Consequently, this is very much a Church School where all are respected and where success in many areas is commonplace.

Established strengths

- The awareness and development of the many and varied aspects which result in the ethos of a caring Christian school.
- The planning, delivery and effect of Religious Education.
- The approach of the headteacher and the leadership team towards the vision of St. Mary's as a Church School.

Focus for development

- To link the governing body more closely to the planning and evaluation of R.E. and Worship.
- Consideration of an increase in the number of staff to lead Worship.
- Foundation governors to actively consider the impact of the church school status.

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

The school meets the needs of its learners in an outstanding way. This busy, happy school has a Christian ethos at its centre. Involvement of all is very much in evidence, for example with the very effective school council and its representation of all pupils. The use of Circle Time is also well integrated into this system. Staff provide excellent role models for the children, parents are listened to and are appreciative of the school and its caring, successful atmosphere. They are supportive of the school's many activities and speak highly of its influences. The development of children's spirituality is seen as a crucial part of this school's role. It is discussed by staff, is incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum and regularly forms part of the school's development plan. The effects are a school where individuals are valued. The school has good links with its church and does outstanding work related to international understanding through its involvement in the Comenius Project. The school is a very pleasant place to be where there is courtesy, a sense of order and a welcoming attitude to visitors. This was particularly noticeable during this inspection when teachers and children from six European countries were visiting.

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

Collective Worship has a good impact upon the school community and is instrumental in effecting the calm atmosphere. Worship is seen as a very important part of this school's function and its effect reaches beyond the act itself. The children enjoy varied and interesting contributions, but always as part of a suitable reverential atmosphere. More of the staff are gradually becoming involved in the leading of

worship which will enhance its whole school value. There are good focal points to create the correct atmosphere and singing is also good. At present more prayers are required to be said 'all together' to enhance worship's corporate nature and this is in hand. Anglican aspects are covered by following the Church's Liturgical year and spiritual aspects are well catered for by time for reflection and the prevailing atmosphere.

How effective is the Religious Education in the school?

The effectiveness of RE is outstanding. The subject has been very well organised and led by the co-ordinator. A new co-ordinator is moving the subject forward by the creation of even tighter planning to ensure progression and achievement. Children have sound knowledge and older ones are actively encouraged to take a suitable questioning approach. This results in an analytical style of learning which is very appropriate in this church school. The subject is well monitored and evaluated resulting in staff having increasing confidence in its delivery. There are suitable displays both in classrooms and around the school which give the subject status and aid children's thought. The understanding of other faiths is well taught and resourced and regular visitors help with teaching, thus providing a wider perspective. The commendable attitude of the school is that R.E. is far more than facts and that its effect goes way beyond the classroom to influence both the atmosphere in school and by providing children with appropriate Christian based life skills.

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 vision, commitment and leadership of the headteacher have a highly significant impact upon the church school aspects of St Mary's. She is very well supported by a capable and committed senior management team. The governors are well led and are very supportive of the school. They do not, as yet, appoint members to take a specific interest in R.E. and Worship nor do Foundation Governors actively consider church school aspects. This school provides a wide variety of excellent experiences for all its pupils and to its great credit, sight is never lost of the importance of a place where caring, respect and Christian values are constantly emphasised and implemented.

SIAS report May 2006 St. Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School Beverley East Humberside HU17 7HD