

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Wheldrake with Thorganby Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

North Lane
Wheldrake
York
YO19 6BB

Diocese of York

City of York L.E.A.

S.I.A.S. Inspection: 9 November 2005

Date of last inspection: November 1999

URN: 121644

Headteacher: Ms. H.J. Rodbourn

SIAS Inspector NS 129: Mr. J.W. Bradley

Context of the school

Wheldrake with Thorganby C.E. (Aided) Primary School has 207 pupils on roll and serves two residential villages to the south of York. Proportions of pupils receiving school meals and those identified as having special educational needs are both below average. The school employs 8.7 F.T.E. teachers and the pupils are taught in 7 classes.

Summary Judgement

Wheldrake with Thorganby is a good Church School where all concerned feel cared for and involved. Its Christianity lies at the heart of the good relationships evident within it.

Established strengths

- Relationships with its local churches which link school and parish in various beneficial ways.
- The integrity shown for all staff and pupils.
- The importance afforded to school worship.

Focus for development

- Development of the role of the Foundation Governors to actively consider what is and should be distinctive about 'our Church School'.
- The development of more reflective time during worship.
- The development of further monitoring and evaluation of Religious Education.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character meets the needs of all learners in a good way. The school's distinctive Christian character has a noticeable good effect upon its atmosphere and performance. Children enjoy being at school, relationships throughout are good and there is a marked integrity shown to all pupils. Care for others is exemplified amongst the pupils by their enthusiasm for the 'Buddy System', which is working well and opportunities being increasingly provided to the whole school via the School Council. Parental views are consistent with an atmosphere where all concerned with the school feel cared for and involved. There are examples of good use being made of the environment to create opportunities for spiritual development, including prayer corners in each classroom, the provision of 'Holding Crosses' and meaningful displays relating to Hinduism and Judaism, plus those for Christianity.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. Worship is well-planned and led by a variety of staff, plus Parish Church staff, thus confirming the school's Anglican status. The atmosphere, during what is clearly Worship, is well supported by suitable focal points. The experience is meaningful, respectful of the occasion and pertinent to the school's Christian foundation. Singing and collective prayer are of a good standard, although more time is required for reflection. Worship is viewed by all as an important time during the school day and its impact upon the school community is perceived as a crucial aspect of the ethos of the school.

How effective is the Religious Education in the school?

Provision for religious education is good. A newly-appointed co-ordinator for the subject is continuing good work previously done. Observed pupil achievement and teaching in both Key Stages were good, with older children showing an ability to relate to earlier experiences in the subject. This was confirmed in conversations with individual children. Scrutiny of children's work and teacher planning showed continuity and development. There was also sound evidence of younger children being provided with opportunities to learn from their own experience, plus a chance to reflect and enjoy R.E. The local church is well utilised as a resource, the status of the subject reflects the school's Christian foundation and ethos and other religions (Hindu and Judaism) are sensitively taught. Staff and Governors demonstrate an awareness of the importance of Religious Education in a Church School by discussion at staff meetings and reports. Further monitoring to ensure appropriate progression will be extremely important for the future development of the subject.

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

Leadership and management of the school as a church school is good. Through careful Foundation Governor appointments from the PCC.s of both churches linked to the school the parishes are made very aware of the Church School in their midst. Parish staff and volunteers are very much involved in the life of the school, including the organisation and running of two Christian based after school clubs. There is a variety of other commendable links, including financial donations for the purchase of Bibles and participation in a Scripture Memorial Prize in memory of a previous Rector's widow. The management of the school, both at senior level and the Governors, contribute significantly to the all-pervading ethos which is Christian. This can be observed in the care shown by all for all, plus the sensitive way the school approaches the fact that they are there to serve the whole of their recognised area.

SIAS NOVEMBER 2005 Wheldrake with Thorganby CE VA Primary School, York, YO19 6BB