

Wymeswold Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Brook Street
Wymeswold
Loughborough
Leics.
LE12 6TH

Diocese of Leicester

Leicestershire LEA
SIAS inspection: 17th and 18th November 2005
Previous S23 inspection: September 1996
URN: 120174
Headteacher: Ms S Deackes
SIAS Inspector NS#007: Mr A R Gilroy

Context

Wymeswold is a small Church of England Primary School of five classes serving the village of Wymeswold, North Leicestershire. The children come mainly from the village as well as a significant minority from elsewhere whose parents have chosen to send their children here. The number of learners eligible for free school meals is low, as is the number with identified individual learning needs.

Summary Judgement

Wymeswold CE Primary School is a good school with a distinctive and effective Christian ethos. The whole school community puts into practice the key Christian principles of inclusivity, equality, forgiveness, care and concern for others.

Established strengths

- The strong Christian leadership provided by the head ensures that all the learners are drawn into the school family where their talents are recognised and nurtured.
- The school is highly effective in developing each child as an individual.
- There is a strong and productive link with both the Parish and the Methodist church communities.

Focus for development

To develop further the school should:

- Instigate a monitoring and evaluation system for collective worship by staff, governors and learners.
- Develop resources for worship, which would enable the leader to stimulate the children's interest, enhance the learning experience and widen their appreciation of Christian practice.
- Develop a policy for spiritual development, which reflects the good practice that is to be found in the school at the present time.

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

Through its distinctive Christian character, the school is good at meeting the needs of all learners. The school has a strong Christian ethos through which it provides effective access for all learners to worship, learning and personal, moral and spiritual development. The school is effective in fostering the faith of Christian pupils and in challenging and stimulating the interest of pupils with no faith. Learners from all groups feel valued and special; the school works effectively at addressing their needs and interests. Learners and parents feel that they are listened to and that their views are taken seriously. Parents enjoy the school's open door policy whilst the learners understand the school's process for raising issues through the school council and make good use of it. There is a weekly celebration assembly that strongly demonstrates the value of and commitment to pupil achievement in all aspects of school life and which is enjoyed and valued by the learners. There is good use of prayer, with prayers during collective worship, before lunch and at the end of the day. The children also enjoy using the 'Prayer Chair' in the assembly hall at other times. The school strongly promotes good relationships and safe practices which is evident from the responsible attitudes and behaviour demonstrated by the learners. There is a good record of charitable giving providing support for people in the local and wider community, which the learners speak about with compassion.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. Worship occupies an important place in the life of the school and is a key element in its Christian witness. Pupils make valuable contributions to worship, making good use of their talents, intellect and experience. During collective worship, they are given every opportunity to reflect and pray. There is a very positive response to worship from learners and from parents. They look forward to the different forms, they enjoy and value worship, they see its importance to them personally and to the life of the school. All the staff and other adults in the school are present during collective worship and play a full part including the planning and delivery. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian, making use of the strong links with the Parish Church and the Methodist Chapel, whose clergy regularly lead worship both in school and in the parish church. Hymns and songs, prayers and affirmations, which are recognisably Christian and reflect the Anglican tradition, are appropriate to those present. They are related to the collective worship theme and contribute to the atmosphere.

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 is good. The school strongly promotes its Christian foundation as described in the mission statement. The effective leadership of the head and the governors ensures that all pupils are secure in a well-ordered, purposeful and harmonious learning environment that is based on and reflects Christian values. All members of the school community promote the Christian aims and ethos of the school, which is recognised and valued by the learners and their parents. Pupils have a wide range of opportunities to develop leadership qualities appropriate to the Church school. The buddy system is particularly effective in building relationships across the school with the year six learners being paired with the reception learners in the foundation stage. Parents strongly value the schools commitment to the individual child and the Christian ethos, which pervades the whole school.