

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Alpington and Bergh Apton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Wheel Road

Alpington

Norfolk

NR14 7NH

Diocese of Norwich

LA: Norfolk

SIAS inspection 06.11.06 and 08.11.06

Date of last inspection 5th-7th March, 2001

URN: 121147

Headteacher: Mr Neil Henery

SIAS inspector: Mrs Dorothy Lenton 460

School context

The school is in a small village. Most children come from the local villages. They are from a wide range of social backgrounds and the vast majority speak English as their first language. There are fewer pupils who have learning difficulties or who are eligible for free school meals than many schools of this size. Currently there are 98 pupils on roll.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Alpington and Bergh Apton as a Church of England school are good

Alpington and Bergh Apton CE VA is good in both its distinctiveness and its effectiveness as a church school. It has some outstanding features, particularly in the leadership of the head teacher and the RE Coordinator. The head teacher's vision for the school is that eventually all areas will be judged to be outstanding. The school is well placed to reach this goal in the foreseeable future.

Established strengths

- The leadership of the head teacher the RE coordinator and the Foundation governors
- Relationships within the school between staff and pupils, between pupils and within the staff team
- The warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout the school, along with the care and support of all pupils as individuals
- The involvement of the local church and the community

Focus for development

- Plan opportunities for children to take responsibility for leading prayer and Collective Worship
- Create a more focal point in the hall where it is more conducive for children to pray or reflect on issues addressed in Collective Worship
- Formalise assessment and tracking in RE, using the new Norfolk Syllabus as a guide

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding in the way it meets the needs of all its learners. Christian values underpin all that this school achieves. The School Council is very articulate about what is distinctive about its church school. They discussed the use of prayers, celebrations of Christian festivals and God. They said that their school was special because it “tries to keep us safe”. Parents speak highly of the school, some choosing to travel to it from a distance. Not just because it is a good school, but, specifically because it is a church school. The school brochure and notice boards around the school point to the good relationship between the church and the school. Although it is not formalised, there is an awareness of children’s spiritual development. The school is keen to develop this further. The school is part of the Norfolk Well Being project. Pupils are encouraged to support others who are in need. This is done through Christmas “shoe boxes” to be sent to children in need. The children are also collecting sugar for the homeless in Norwich

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The impact of collective worship on the school is good. It occupies a central place in the life of the school. Collective worship takes place every day, twice a week as a whole school and at other times in individual classes. It is always based on Christian values and the teachings of Jesus. One boy stood up and spoke about who Jesus was in 10 seconds very effectively! The head teacher, other staff and members of the local clergy lead the school assemblies. The children sing and respond well to questions. The Lord’s Prayer is said each day and at the moment the vicar is explaining each line when he visits. The children use the local church and the church uses the school for different activities.

Themes are planned for the year and take in the key Christian festivals. These are also reflected in some of the RE themes. The school recognises that the children can play a more responsible role in collective worship to enhance their already positive attitudes. It also recognises the value of giving the children a sharper focus on worship through the use of a special area in the hall that encourages quiet reflection.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

The effect of religious education in the school is good. The RE coordinator works enthusiastically and plans well for the children. She is currently working with the new Norfolk framework and plans are in the process of being implemented to use this document to establish more focused assessment and target setting. The children respond very well to RE. They show enthusiasm and knowledge in lessons and can talk about what they have learned. They are able to discuss different points of view and reach a consensus. One boy said that RE “helps you understand what is going on in the world”. There is good progress made throughout the school. In the Foundation Stage and in Key Stage 1 the children work through themes such as “Believing”. In Key Stage 2 the children explore this theme through looking at the beliefs of the Ancient Egyptians, for example. Visitors from the local church add to the input in lessons. The school recognises that there needs to be more time given to times of reflection and to explore more cross-curricular links.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding

The head teacher, along with the RE coordinator, has created excellent opportunities for staff to develop their own spirituality. Staff members meet each week to pray for the school community. The Christian vision for the school is clearly identified in the school's aims, through the prospectus and induction meeting for new parents. Notice boards indicate the very strong link with the local church. The local vicar is very supportive of the school and there are many joint initiatives. For example, the Saturday activity day. This will be held in the school and children will be making models of Mary and Joseph, which will be taken from house to house during Advent. (Posada) This will lead up to the Christmas carol service in the church. RE and Collective Worship are recognised by all governors as being of central importance in a church school and monitoring of these takes place regularly. This is usually carried out by a Foundation Governor. All the governors, along with the parents, recognise the special Christian ethos that is evident in the school, which allows all children to thrive. This was also recognised in the recent Ofsted inspection 21 -22 September, 2006

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