

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Barwick in Elmet Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Chapel Lane,
Barwick in Elmet,
Leeds,
LS15 4HL

Diocese of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds

Local authority: Leeds

Dates of inspection: 11th January 2007

Date of last inspection: 1st October 2001

School's unique reference number: 107987

Headteacher: Mr P.Doherty

Inspector's name and number: Mr S.R. Weston, number 347

School context

Barwick in Elmet C. of E. Primary is a popular village school of some 149 pupils predominantly from the local area. The majority of pupils are of a British white background and a small number are from an Asian one. The school offers a wide range of after school activities and clubs and provides a day care facility. The school has done much to maximise the interior space available resulting in many wide and spacious areas for learning.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Barwick in Elmet C. of E. Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

Christian values underpin the life and work of the school in every way and there is a strong commitment to the achievement of the personal and academic potential for each child in a safe and supportive atmosphere of care, trust and commitment that is shared by the whole school community. This has created a learning environment in which the children flourish and is the product of strong leadership from the head teacher with the full support of the governors, staff and parents.

Established strengths

- A strong focus on Christian values through Collective Worship, prayer and time for reflection.
- Positive culture of praise and support of love care and trust for the children, a shared commitment to the creation of an excellent learning environment.
- Strong leadership creating an exceptional learning environment with a Christian ethos that permeates all aspects of school life and is highly valued by all of the school's community

Focus for development

- Sustain and develop the outstanding work already in progress.
- Undertake further work with the children on the Lord's prayer.
- Pursue planned initiatives to enhance and strengthen existing links with the church and community.

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

The Christian ethos of the school is very strong and permeates every aspect from documentation display through to practice and is the result of a shared commitment to the development of the whole child within a supportive school community. The Christian values are strongly promoted by the headteacher and Deputy with the active support of the governors, parents and staff and together with the extensive range of learning activities that the school provides, an excellent environment for learning is achieved. The governors and staff provide excellent role models together with the parents who are very supportive of the school. Effort and achievement in all areas is seen as a worthwhile goal in itself and is

celebrated. Christian values are evident in the quality of courteous and caring relationships between pupils and pupils and staff. The children feel safe and secure and enjoy coming to school, valuing and respecting the staff and each other. Particularly impressive is the way that the older pupils demonstrate a responsibility of care for the younger ones. They are articulate and confident and the school 's Christian ethos supports and actively fosters the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all the learners whatever their faith may be. The atmosphere in the school is calm and orderly and polite with the children demonstrating courtesy and good manners to each other and to adults.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship, the opportunity for prayers and reflection are central to the life and work of the school and are well planned by the coordinator with the headteacher and the active support and involvement of the vicar, (chair of governors), and the Foundation governor. Procedures for the effective monitoring of Collective Worship by the Foundation governor and Chair are embedded and meaningful. Worship is planned round the key dates on the Christian calendar and takes place in a variety of settings, the hall, school garden the church and in the case of the Christmas pageant, the whole village was involved. Through worship, very close links are made with the church and the community and the children understand the place of the church, the role of the Rector in the community, the Anglican faith and practice. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian yet acknowledges other major world faiths where appropriate. Some children, however, were not entirely sure of the Lord's prayer, indicating they would like to know it better. Children value the opportunity for prayer and reflection, enjoying all the acts of Collective Worship, Older ones indicate that Collective Worship helps them make decisions at times. Worship makes an outstanding contribution to the life of the school and to the children's moral and spiritual development while at the same time contributing significantly to the creation of an excellent learning environment.

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

The headteacher demonstrates exceptional leadership in providing and promoting a Christian vision for the school and for its development as a church school. He is comprehensively supported by the governors, staff and parents all of whom share and contribute to the development of this vision. The school's Christian values and ethos are very evident in every aspect of the life and work of the school and in its links with the church and the community as a whole. The possibility of strengthening these links through the development of choral singing is currently under consideration. The evaluation of the direction the school is taking as a church school and the planning and development of collective worship is jointly undertaken by the head teacher with the coordinator, Chair and Foundation governors and is discussed with the whole governing body. Staff and pupil's views and those of parents are sought and incorporated, all feeding into the SEF and School Development planning where further progress is outlined. The staff are fully and positively involved in the life of the school and together with the governors and parents this teamwork is a strength of the school, one which is very much at the heart of the community. The pupils and parents are very positive about the direction the school is taking and the parents spoken to particularly valued the atmosphere and ethos which is conducive to the creation of an excellent learning environment and for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of their children. They felt that the Christian values evident in the school gave the children a firm foundation for life.

SIAS report 12th January 2007, Barwick in Elmet C. of E. Primary School, Chapel Lane, Barwick in Elmet, Leeds, LS15 4HL