

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Christ Church Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School

Park Road,
Sowerby Bridge,
HX6 2BJ,
West Yorkshire

Diocese: Wakefield

Local authority: Calderdale

Dates of inspection: 5/07/07.

Date of last inspection: 25th February and 26th March 2003

School's unique reference number: 107554

Headteacher: Mr Steve Green

Inspector's name and number: Denise Brogden 486

School context

Christ Church C of E VA Junior School is situated in Sowerby Bridge. The community that the school serves is an area of old terraced housing and council built property. The deprivation indicator puts the school slightly below average for socio economic circumstances.

Attainment at Christ Church is broadly in line with national expectations. Almost 20% of pupils have dyslexia and the school has been awarded the Calderdale Dyslexia Friendly School Award. The school has also been awarded Investors in Pupils, Investors in People, BECTA ICT Mark, Healthy School Award, the DfES International Award (Intermediate Level) and The Basic Skills Quality Mark.

Summary Judgement

Christ Church C of E VA Junior School is a good school that reflects its Christian Foundation well. Its values and aims are clearly rooted in a Christian tradition. The schools mission statement 'To Learn, To Live and To Love' permeates school life through a sense of responsibility for self and respect for each other.

Established strengths

- The positive ethos which is reflected in relationships across the school.
- The care and value for each individual in the school to reach their full potential.
- The links between the school and the local church.

Focus for development

- Re-visit planning for Collective Worship to ensure recording and evaluation is more rigorous in order to focus on the impact on learners.
- To introduce a new scheme of work in Religious Education and to offer pupils a wider range of stimulating/engaging activities in RE.
- To have in place systematic monitoring of standards in Religious Education. Use assessment information effectively to ensure all pupils make the expected progress.
- Use self evaluation to strengthen the Governors role in monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship and standards in Religious Education.

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

The school is very committed to the nurture and care of its pupils promoted through clear Christian principles. Pupils can articulate well the meaning of the school motto 'I am Third'. Children have enormous trust in adults to support them, particularly when they feel vulnerable. Pupils feel that the Buddies and Befriender roles help them to feel settled into school. They recognise the care given by all members of the school community especially at times such as SAT's when they can spend time quietly reflecting and can be supported

through prayer. Children enjoy many aspects of their school work and take their role as school councillors very seriously. They expressed the importance of visiting the local church for special events and times of the year. Parental views gathered recognise their children are well cared for.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Daily Collective Worship is important in the life of the school because it provides an affirming experience for pupils, staff and visitors. Most pupils can articulate the key Christian values that the school promotes. Children clearly enjoy the opportunity to spend time as a whole school in Collective Worship with the chance to celebrate achievements and to spend time listening to stories, singing and reflecting. The school council articulated that the schools Christian ethos is portrayed strongly in times of whole school worship when pupils can be still and spend time in prayer. The behaviour of pupils is good and pupils are very keen to take an active part. The members of the school council were able to identify differences in worship led by the different leaders and were keen to have more opportunity for active participation through role play in their Collective Worship. There are good links with the local church and some pupils have had the opportunity to contribute to Sunday worship.

The effectiveness of the religious education is satisfactory.

Standards in religious education are satisfactory and most pupils achieve the expectations of the diocesan syllabus for their year group. The attitude that children have for religious education is mostly positive, though some children said that on occasions lessons are not engaging as they are asked to complete similar tasks each week. Pupils expressed some disengagement when asked to write what they remember of Bible stories. Pupils generally listen well to their teachers and are able to reflect on their own thoughts about a given topic. They give thoughtful responses to questions asked by their teachers. Religious Education lessons seen were well supported by the use of an Interactive Whiteboard. Religious Education is also supported by the local vicar.

Planning shows clear learning objectives. A more varied approach to assessment would help to inform pupils' learning. A wider range of tasks would help to engage pupils.

The school recognises there is a need to introduce a new scheme of work in Religious Education from September 2007 and also to offer support to teachers in order to reflect latest developments in RE teaching.

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

A large majority of stakeholders can speak confidently and accurately about the schools Christian vision which the Headteacher articulates well. Governors and staff work in close partnership. The ethos of the school is shared, understood and supported by members of the school community. The role that the local clergy and the congregation of the local church play in their support of the school's Christian ethos is an important one. More work is underway to strengthen the links between the school and local church community. The school welcomes suggestions and contributions from all members of the school community. There is a clear and strategic view about church school improvement based on evidence from the school self evaluation especially in the subject area of Religious Education. The voice of children is consistently sought regarding all aspects of their learning. Within this school there is a strong team of caring people that provides a space for children to flourish.