

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Dodworth St John the Baptist Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Barnsley Road,
Dodworth,
Barnsley,
South Yorkshire
S75 3JS

Diocese: Wakefield

Local authority: Barnsley

Dates of inspection: 25/06/07 am and 9/07/07 pm

Date of last inspection: 21st and 22nd January 2003

School's unique reference number: 132753

Headteacher: Mrs Pauline Hilling-Smith

Inspector's name and number: Denise Brogden 486

School context

Dodworth St John the Baptist CE VA Primary School is situated in the former mining village of Dodworth. Almost all of the children come from long established interconnected families in the village. Attainment on entry to the Foundation Stage is generally well below average in communication, language and literacy, mathematical development and social development. The school population is relatively mono-cultural. The school is fully inclusive including children with specialist special needs. The school has been awarded Activemark, Global Award Bronze and the Healthy Schools Award.

Summary Judgement

Dodworth St John the Baptist CE VA Primary School is an outstanding school that reflects its Christian Foundation well.

The values and aims are clearly stated with a mission to provide excellence and enjoyment promoting success and fulfilment from a Christian foundation. The effectiveness is enhanced by the commitment of the Headteacher, staff, governors and local clergy to see Christian principles in practice.

Established strengths

- Strong pastoral and curricular links with the parish church.
- The high priority given to the spiritual development of children.
- A quality learning culture and positive ethos reflected in the solid relationships built up in school which provide a secure learning environment for all children.

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.
- Involve the children in the evaluation of all Collective Worship.

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

The school is strongly committed to the nurture and care of its pupils promoted through clear Christian principles. Children have enormous trust in adults to support them. They recognise the care given by all members of the school community. Children are encouraged to develop high expectations in their learning and particularly in their behaviour. Children are always polite to each other and to visitors. Children enjoy school and take their role as school councillors very seriously. They said that all children are made to feel 'special' and 'proud' of

themselves. They emphasised that team work is evident in school. They expressed the importance of visiting the local church for special events and times of the year and the church plays a crucial role in developing the sense of belonging to a wider church family. There are excellent and exemplary relationships evident throughout the school, characterised by Christian care and concern for others and a desire to live out the aims of the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Daily Collective Worship is important in the life of the school because it provides an affirming experience for pupils, staff and visitors. It is very well planned by the different leaders and well resourced. Children clearly enjoy the opportunities to spend time as a whole school in Collective Worship listening, singing, reflecting and praying. The school council recognised the importance of collective worship in the life of the school. The behaviour is very good and children showed much eagerness to sing and join in saying prayers. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian and honours the Anglican tradition. There are excellent links with the local church, parish and the local Incumbent leads Collective Worship once a week. There are opportunities for children to experience aspects of worship on visits to church which are excellently planned and supported by members of the community. Music plays a very important part in the school and pupils have been able to respond with 'great spirituality' to music written to tell the Easter story.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Standards in religious education are good. Achievements in relation to the pupils' prior attainment is good. The attitude that children have for religious education is positive. Lessons are well paced. Teaching in lessons observed was outstanding. Children listen well to their teachers and work co-operatively with each other in lessons. They give thoughtful responses to questions asked by their teachers. The younger children can name some Christian symbols around school and are able to spend time in reflective activities. They are aware of Christian festivals and can name a range of Christian stories. Older children are able to explain what the story of the Good Samaritan can teach us and use ICT to create a movie to share the teachings within the story to other children. Religious education is very well supported by the local Incumbent. Planning shows clear learning objectives and good use is made of ICT within Religious Education lessons. Children are asked to assess their own learning in lessons. The school has links with teacher training institutions which has focused on sharing current good practice in RE.

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

The Headteacher provides a strong lead and has the ability to inspire, being committed to promoting a distinctive Christian vision. The Governors know the school well and they work with staff in close partnership. The ethos of the school is shared, understood and very well supported by all members of the school community. The role that local clergy and the congregation of the local church play in their support of the school's Christian ethos is an important one. The school welcomes suggestions and contributions from all members of the school community. 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. The distinctive nature of the school as a church school is clearly communicated and understood by those with close links to the school.

SIAS report July 9th 2007. Dodworth St John Baptist CE VA Primary School, Dodworth, South Yorkshire, S75 3JS.