

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Evenwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

New Road,  
Evenwood  
Bishop Auckland  
County Durham  
DL14 9QZ

#### **Diocese: Durham**

Local authority: Durham

Dates of inspection: 14.6.2007.

Date of last inspection: January 2003

School's unique reference number: 114221

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Stelling

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Jean Mulley 358

#### **School context**

This is a small rural school situated in the village of Evenwood on the outskirts of Bishop Auckland. There are 107 pupils on roll including the nursery. A significant number of pupils have learning difficulties and / or disabilities. There have been a number of staff changes in recent times but there now appears to be a settled staff.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Evenwood Primary School as a Church of England school are good**

Christian values of love, tolerance, respect for all, caring and forgiveness are very much in evidence. Parents are very appreciative of the way in which their children are cared for and nurtured. Children are polite, friendly and well behaved. They are encouraged to understand that they have a responsibility to care for each other.

#### **Established strengths**

- The very good relationships that exist between all members of the school community
- The very good pastoral care offered to pupils ensuring that each child is regarded as a unique individual
- Committed and enthusiastic teachers who work well together and encourage pupils to achieve their full potential
- The friendly open atmosphere that exists - where everyone is welcomed and made to feel part of the establishment
- The excellent links with the local community

#### **Focus for development**

- Evaluate Collective Worship in order to assess the impact it has upon pupil development.
- Develop a range of Christian signs and symbols around the school to make it more explicit that this is a church school.

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

Christian values of love, tolerance, respect for all and forgiveness are very much in evidence throughout the school. Children are able to speak openly about the effect these values have on their school. Staff are enthusiastic and committed and set a very good role model for pupils. Very good relationships are to be seen between all stakeholders. Children state that they enjoy coming to school and that they feel safe and secure in their school environment. There is a buddy system in operation encouraging children to be kind and friendly to each other. The school is welcoming and friendly. Parents feel that their children are well cared for and speak of the close family atmosphere in a school where everyone knows everyone. Opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are found across all areas of school life. This is viewed by the staff as being very important to the life of the school. One class has regular time for stilling and this has proved to be very successful.

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

Collective Worship is planned together by the whole staff. Thought is given so that themes fit in with the Anglican year calendar. Worship is well structured with time for prayer and reflection in a calm peaceful atmosphere. A small table with a cross sets a focal point for worship. Children have a very positive and reverent attitude to worship and are eager to participate. Prayer is used at other times throughout the day e.g. lunchtime and at the end of the day. The school is sensitive to the beliefs and faiths of others and evidence of this can be seen around the school in pictorial and photographic form. The parish church is used for special occasions e.g. harvest. Currently due to the illness of the parish priest there are minimal links with the parish. The school is looking at ways to address this.

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

The headteacher has a clear Christian vision for the school and is supported in this by staff, governors and parents. Staff work well together as a team to promote a Christian vision for this school where pupils, staff and parents all feel valued and respected. The chair of governors is a frequent and supportive visitor to the school. Governors know their school well. Foundation governors are aware of the specific role they have in bringing Christian aspects into areas of governance. Parents are very appreciative of the school and the way in which their children are cared for. There are very good links with the local community and in turn the local community realise the importance of the school to their community and support them in many ways e.g. fund raising, putting up a new security fence.