

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Fountains Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School,

Grantley,
Ripon,
HG4 3PJ

Diocese: Bradford and Ripon & Leeds

Local authority: North Yorks.

Dates of inspection: 10th October 2007

Date of last inspection: 20th October 2003

School's unique reference number: 121584

Headteacher: Mrs S. Gill

Inspector's name and number: Mrs. S. Weston number 347

School context

Fountains Church of England primary school, Grantley, is a medium sized rural school of some ninety pupils and serves a larger catchment area than the village of Grantley. The pupils come from a wide range of backgrounds and at present all are white British, a significant number of whom have statements of special educational needs. The school has strong links with two local churches and with Fountains Abbey. The head teacher is currently supporting a nearby school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Fountains Church of England primary school as a Church of England school is outstanding

Christian values underpin and permeate every aspect of the school's life and work and is combined with a strong commitment to the holistic development of each child's potential in a safe and supportive atmosphere of love, care and trust. This commitment is shared by the whole school community and is the product of a clear Christian vision and strong leadership from the head, actively supported by highly motivated governors, staff and parents. The result is a learning environment in which the children flourish.

Established strengths

- A strong focus on Christian values through Collective Worship, reflection and prayer.
- A positive culture of praise and reward, of love, care and trust for the children and a shared commitment to the creation of an excellent learning environment.
- A clear, shared Christian vision combined underpinned by a Christian ethos that permeates all aspects of school life and is highly valued by all the school's community

Focus for development

- Through access to appropriate training and support, implement strategies to enhance, extend and embed the school's self evaluation and development procedures in relation to its Christian status and spiritual development.
- Assess possibilities for the further development of the "community service"

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

The Christian ethos of the school is exceptionally strong, permeating every aspect of the school from documentation and display, through to practice. This is the result of a total and shared commitment to the development of the whole child within a supportive school community. Christian values are strongly promoted by the headteacher with the complete support of a very motivated governing body and very supportive parents. Together with an extensive range of learning activities and opportunities, the school provides an excellent environment for the learning that is achieved. Christian values are evident in every aspect of the school life, particularly in the quality of courteous and caring relations between pupils, and

pupils and staff. The children are articulate and confident, secure in their place in the school, and have a strong feeling of ownership. They feel happy, safe and secure, enjoying warm and friendly relations with the staff based on mutual trust and respect. The governors and parents provide excellent role models for the children who flourish. A strong culture of hard work combined with one of praise and reward for all forms of achievement is very evident through awards and display. Behaviour management focuses on development rather than punishment and reconciliation and forgiveness are seen as central. Truthfulness in all things is especially encouraged. Reflection is also seen as important and the creation of a Peace Garden emphasises the value of this aspect of life to the school and its community. The atmosphere in the school is relaxed, orderly and polite with the children demonstrating extraordinary courtesy and consideration with natural good manners to each other and to adults, a fact commented upon by external visitors.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is a strength of the school and is truly central to its life and work. Both pupils and staff value the peace which provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and spiritual development, promoted through the daily acts. Worship is comprehensively planned by the coordinator with the headteacher and the rector, who as the principal foundation governor, acts as a critical friend, monitoring planning through to evaluation and reporting back to the governing body. Worship includes themes drawn from SEAL and PHSE&C projects, links with other faiths and key events from the Christian calendar, yet is sufficiently flexible to allow time to share events and experiences that are of concern to pupils and to members of the school community. All staff and pupils participate in worship, leading at times and parents are always welcome to join in. The Friday Achievement celebration is well attended. The school is very much at the heart of the community and is involved in a wide programme of services and activities with two local churches. However as the village has no church, the school itself becomes a church for a very well attended community service. Children enjoy collective worship within the school and church and value the contributions from the rector. Links with the Anglican traditions are very strong. 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 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 has a very clear and strong Christian vision for the school and provides exceptional leadership. In promoting this, she is actively supported by a highly motivated team of governors and staff, all of whom share the vision and work hard to make it a reality for the children and the community. The Foundation governors monitor and assist in the evaluation of the school as a church school and report to the full governing body all of whom are involved in the development of SIP and SEF documentation. The staff are fully involved in the school's development and feel a sense of empowerment to which they respond positively and with enthusiasm. Pupils and parents are very positive about the school and the direction it is currently taking. Their views are sought formally and informally and acted upon where appropriate. Community teamwork is a great strength of the school which is firmly at the heart of the community. Parents particularly value the school's ethos which is conducive to excellent learning opportunities and the social, moral and spiritual development of all the children. School self evaluation is accurate and used effectively. Headteacher and governors are very clear about what the school needs to do to enhance review of the school's distinctiveness in ways which ensure that the school's progress as a church school is sustained.