

Grange C E School

Fell Drive
Grange over Sands
Cumbria.
LA11 7JF

Diocese: Carlisle

Local authority: Cumbria
Date of inspection: 19th April 2007
Date of last inspection: 15th -16th October 2002
School's unique reference number: 112280
Headteacher: Mr C Milner
Inspector's name and number: Margaret Lewis



**Diocese of
Carlisle**

Board of Education

"Every Child Matters To God."

School context

Grange over Sands is a smaller than average school with 152 pupils who come from a broad mix of social backgrounds and have a wide range of abilities. Almost all pupils are of white British heritage. The school is located high above Morecambe Bay and close to the town centre. It is set in extensive tree-lined grounds with hard and grassy play areas and pitches. A recently developed adventure playground, a sensory garden, summerhouse and benches provide good facilities for outdoor learning and recreation and help pupils have fun in their play.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Grange over Sands C E Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

The Christian ethos is embedded extremely well in this school. It is outward looking and sustains and maintains this ethos embracing pupils and their families from a variety of backgrounds and religious denominations. Children are at the heart of the school and individuals receive the support and understanding they need. Staff know the pupils very well and pupils trust them implicitly. The school is very welcoming with happy, confident pupils who feel valued and cared for. Valuable contributions are made by the clergy, PCC, parents and governors who all work closely together.

Established strengths

- A strong Christian ethos is embedded throughout the school and the provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent
- Relationships are exemplary. Pupils and their parents have extremely positive attitudes to school and its work. Pupils are proud of the school and their behaviour is excellent. They show care and consideration for others
- The provision for Collective Worship makes a significant contribution to the distinctive Christian ethos
- Excellent links with the local church and community. The leadership and commitment of the headteacher, staff, governors and clergy to the Christian status of the school is first rate.

Focus for development

Extend links with the wider and world church, other cultures and communities

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

The distinctive Christian character of the school is recognised by, children, parents, staff, governors and the local community. Parents are very appreciative of the work of the staff and governors. Parents remark on the strength of the headteacher's leadership and

appreciate the way their children are so happy and keen to come to school. They feel that the school goes out of its way to meet their children's needs and to develop the whole child. This is apparent in the lengths the school goes to include pupils of all denominations and other faith communities in school. Staff are seen as very approachable and are always there to talk to when needed. Relationships are excellent and pupils and staff feel special and valued. Pupils say staff always help them if they are struggling, they say 'We can go to any teacher. They all will help us and make us feel good'. A calm, purposeful atmosphere where a culture of praise predominates with a good natured sense of humour is testament to this. Pupils are sure that Grange is 'the best school ever' and the oldest ones say that they will be reluctant to leave. Each child's needs and views are taken into consideration. Staff receive effective professional development and all work effectively and cooperatively together. The school has effective links with the diocesan and local authority RE teams and the local clergy. The school involves its pupils in supporting a wide range of charities and ensures that pupils have fun in doing so. The 'Pink Day' in aid of 'Cancer relief' was a good example of this.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

All pupils are aware of the importance of Worship and take part in a variety of ways such as in role play, writing prayers, playing musical instruments and taking responsibility for organising and operating technology. Singing and playing of instruments is enthusiastic and pupils respond well to the acting out of Bible stories such as the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. They were able to enjoy the humour as pupils acted out walking in a stony river bed for full immersion. They related to this well and could contrast it to their previous work on Christenings. Their spiritual growth is demonstrated through responses to questions posed for instance, 'We learn about God,' 'We learn about being kind and respectful –everyone is kind in our school'. Good resources and excellent leadership enable the school to provide high quality Acts of Worship at the beginning of each day. A suitable environment is created for worship in the multi purpose hall with the use of music, candles prayers and readings. Pupils are reverent in prayer. Prayers are a regular feature before meals and at the end of the day. Some parents, governors and all staff attend Worship and sometimes take the lead. Special services held in the local Parish church and in the Methodist church are well attended by parents. The school works to a well devised plan over several years for worship. Planning is very thorough and includes a wide range of styles with a theme planned and evaluated conscientiously for each half term and a detailed record of each week's daily worship. Themes recognise the different ages, backgrounds and experiences of the children and offer insights and understanding of other religions such as Judaism and Hinduism as well as Christianity. The Rector and local Methodist minister both make valuable, regular contributions to Collective Worship. This fosters Parish and ecumenical links.

The headteacher took up the offer from the parents of Japanese pupils to raise funds and lead a school visit for current Year 6 pupils, parents and staff to Japan in association with the British Council. Pupils stayed for ten days in Christian Japanese homes and learned about Japanese culture and the way of life.

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

The headteacher, staff and governors are very committed to the Christian ethos of the school and work very effectively together. The headteacher sets an excellent example to the whole school community and as the leader for Collective Worship sets high professional standards. As a member of the Parochial Church Council he works closely with the Rector and the local community to provide links and enhance the status of the school as a church school. He is highly regarded by pupils and their parents who say 'He simply **is** the school and is responsible for making it so good and the children so happy'. The school is outward looking and is constantly looking for ways to further pupils' religious and cultural understanding both close by locally and further away.

Leadership of RE is valued and supported well. Resources and staff training to support the RE curriculum are well in place.