

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

The Grasby All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Vicarage Lane

Grasby

Barnetby

Lincolnshire

DN38 6AU

Diocese of Lincoln

LA: Lincolnshire

SIAS Inspection: 4 January 2007

Date of last inspection: June 2001

School's Unique reference number: 120571

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Lynette Edwards

SIAS Inspector: Mrs Meg Hackney (NS198)

Context

The Grasby All Saints Church of England Primary School is a small rural school serving the village of Grasby and surrounding area. All pupils are of white British heritage. The school has a close and proactive partnership with the church and local community.

Summary Judgement

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England school is good with some outstanding features.

Christian values and beliefs underpin the entire life and work of the school. This supports the strong sense of community and genuine care for all.

Established strengths

- The commitment and vision of the headteacher and staff in promoting the Christian ethos through which all pupils are nurtured and highly valued as individuals.
- Pupils' excellent behaviour and the very warm relationships throughout the school.
- The good quality acts of worship and excellent daily use of the church which positively enriches pupils' spiritual, moral and social development.
- The excellent use of the environment to support learning and personal development.
- The high status given to religious education and its integration with PSHE and the broader curriculum.
- The excellent links with the church and the local community.

Focus for development

- Evaluate the outcome of the planned themes for collective worship and develop a system to assess any areas which could be improved or extended.
- Place more emphasis on writing and reading pupils' own prayers and use them regularly to increase pupils' participation during collective worship.
- Further develop governors' understanding of the school's distinctive ethos as a church school and its impact on pupils' personal and academic achievements.

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

The school is an exceptionally welcoming and friendly establishment where Christian principles and kindness are deeply embedded. Pupils learn in a very caring and happy environment where everyone is made to feel valued and special. The pupils are very proud of their school and because of this they want to work hard and strive to do their best. They feel safe in school and enjoy the excellent relationships they have with each other and their teachers. Pupils' behaviour and attitude are excellent and this reflects the importance placed on religious education and PSHE which underpins all areas of the curriculum. Displays around the school and regular visits and visitors from other cultures help pupils to learn to respect the beliefs and traditions of other faiths. In its endeavour to enrich pupils' experience and understanding of different faiths and cultures the school is currently establishing a link with a nearby multicultural school to encourage joint activities.

Pupils of all ages and abilities are very proud that their achievements are recognised and highly valued. Many pupils speak enthusiastically about the Gold Award Book and celebration assemblies which are a highlight of the week. Christian principles underpin all aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and pupils' personal development is excellent. A significant feature is the very accomplished school orchestra and the high quality of pupils' art work which is displayed around the school. During lessons pupils confidently share their views with each other and their teachers about a wide range of issues. They enjoy taking on special responsibilities and the School Council is proactive in sharing pupils' ideas for improvements to the environment. The school is very inclusive. Pupils with special needs are well nurtured and this enables them to be fully integrated into all learning activities. The school makes excellent use of the environment such as the church and Millennium Garden to encourage pupils' spiritual and social awareness.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good with some outstanding features.

Collective worship is a very important part of the school day and enjoyed by all. A significant feature is that pupils attend their worship every day in the beautiful village church and this creates a very special and spiritual start to the day. There is a strong sense of community and trust. The themes for worship are varied and well planned by the head teacher, clergy and Bishop's Visitor to reflect the Church's Year and a good range of moral and social issues. Although adults know the pupils well, at present there is no formal system to evaluate pupils' response and understanding which would assist the development of the themes and related aspects of worship. Many pupils regularly take an active leading role for special services although during the school's daily act of worship such opportunities are less frequent. During the inspection pupils of all ages showed a high level of respect for the church environment and their behaviour was outstanding. They listened attentively and were very keen to answer questions and to share their memories of special occasions and celebrations. Very good use was made of resources such as flags, photographs and certificates to illustrate the theme. Pupils sang tunefully with enthusiasm and enjoyment accompanied by an organist. Pupils of all ages joined in confidently with the School Prayer and responded very positively to time for reflection.

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

The head teacher shows firm commitment towards her leadership of a church school. Since her appointment she has maintained and developed the Anglican traditions and Christian vision for the school. With the strong support of the Vicar, who is also a foundation governor, she has made a significant contribution to the school's effectiveness as a very caring church school. The governing body are very supportive of the work of the school. However, their understanding of the school's effectiveness as a church school and its impact on pupils' personal and academic achievements could be an area for development. The policies for collective worship and religious education have recently been revised to provide a clearer statement of the school's aims and procedures. The head teacher and staff are an excellent team who value and support the school's Christian foundation and partnership with the church. The Christian principles and beliefs contained in the Aims and Mission Statement are being lived out in the life of the school. The leadership and management are very effective in maintaining close links with parents, the local community and the church. Pupils' personal development is enriched by their involvement in a wide range of community and church activities including support for local and national charities. The excellent links with the Diocese for advice and support are well maintained.

SIAS JANUARY 2007 The Grasby All Saints Church of England (Controlled) Primary School, Vicarage Lane, Grasby, Barnetby, Lincolnshire DN38 6AU