

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Great Eccleston Copp Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Copp Lane
Great Eccleston
Preston
Lancashire
PR3 0ZN

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Lancashire
Dates of inspection: 10th July 2007
Date of previous inspection: April 2002
School's unique reference number: 119549
Headteacher: Catherine Parsons
Inspector's name and number: Mary Binks

School context

Great Eccleston Copp Church of England Primary School is situated in pleasant rural surroundings. There are 162 pupils on roll. Although they come from a wide social mix, the proportion of children having free school meals is well below the national average. On entry to the school, most children have the knowledge and skills expected of four year olds by the PIPs baseline assessment.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Great Eccleston Copp as a Church of England school are outstanding

The school has an established Christian foundation with strong relationships with the church and local community. The Mission Statement is clearly displayed around the school, as is the School Motto and the Code of Conduct. The established Senior Management Team leads and manages the school effectively and is well supported by a committed Governing Body, as well as by parents and members of the community. The children feel valued, happy and secure within this environment.

Established strengths

- The strong Christian foundation reflected in the relationships throughout the school and with the
- church and local community.
- The quality of Collective Worship, recognised as central to the life of the school.
- The attractive and stimulating environment provided by interesting displays throughout the school.

Focus for development

- In RE, provide more clearly defined differentiated tasks in order to raise the standards of children's writing.

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

The school's ethos and values are based upon Christian principles. The Head Teacher has a clear vision for the school's development. She and the strong established staff team are committed to a Christian model of leadership. This centres on the Mission Statement together with the School Motto, "Copp Cares." This has a very positive influence on the children's behaviour and attitudes, as well as their sense of responsibility for each other and for their environment. The quality of relationships throughout the school is high and is equalled by the strong relationships with the church and local community. The awareness and sensitivity of the staff to the needs of all the children has very positive effects on their behaviour and well being. Effective use is made of Circle Time and, within the school day, appropriate time is given for quiet reflection which is valued by the children. The setting up of "Oasis" by parent

volunteers provides a safe haven for children feeling vulnerable during times of recreation. Parents have a very positive and supportive relationship with the school; actively supporting school events, extra-curricular activities and acts of worship. The open and welcoming policy of the school is valued and appreciated. The children enjoy coming to school and welcome the stimulation and challenge of learning. They feel cared for and confident that any issues or concerns are dealt with sensitively and with understanding and fairness. The school uses its Christian character to encourage the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development throughout the school. The established link with a school in Zambia, the learning of French throughout the school and the open welcome to visitors of different faiths and cultures, helps to enhance the children's experience and understanding and encourages their sensitivity and awareness.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship plays a central part in the life of the school and is a fundamental aspect of its Christian character. The planning and recording of Collective Worship follows the Christian Year and related themes. It includes the celebration of major festivals and other significant events in the life of the school. All the staff are involved in leading and participating in worship. The children enjoy being involved and are enthusiastic and appreciative of the variety of content and presentation. The singing is good and there are opportunities for the children to be involved in leading prayers, presenting drama and musical accompaniment. They are at ease in entering into prayer and during times of quiet reflection. The parents and governors give positive support. The weekly Celebration Assembly and acts of worship held in church are always well attended. The Vicar leads a weekly act of worship and serves the school community as friend and encourager. The school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of other denominations and faiths. Visitors from other cultures and faith traditions are welcomed. This helps to broaden the children's appreciation and understanding of different styles and traditions in worship. The bank of resource material is good and effective use is made of artefacts and other visual aids. The school's Christian values promoted in worship have a positive influence on the life of the school. This is evident when talking to the children and the staff.

The effectiveness of religious education is good.

It is recognised by the staff, parents and governors as having an important part in the life of the school. The RE manager has established a good system and supports the staff in developing the teaching of RE throughout the school. The documentation and planning are clear in their detail and direction. These have helped to establish effective criteria for assessment and a system for monitoring progress and development. The effects are reflected in the enthusiasm of the staff in the teaching of RE and the children's enjoyment and engagement in the lessons. Relevant courses and support provided by Blackburn Diocese have been accessed which helps keep the subject up to date. Good use is made of additional materials and the loan facilities provided by the library service. These have helped to provide more variety in teaching and improved the range of activities for the children. The children have a good understanding of the Christian faith. They also learn about other faiths and cultures; the teaching of Judaism and Islam being part of the taught syllabus. This broadens their experience and appreciation of different practices and ways of life. The effective use of visual materials and artefacts has helped enhance the children's knowledge and awareness of other faiths and cultures. The teaching of RE is good and reflects the creative style that is encouraged. The children speak positively of their interest and enjoyment of discussion and discovery. The quality of oral work is good. The regular use of worksheets limits opportunities for the children to develop their creative skills. The lack of consistent provision of differentiated activities, particularly in Key Stage 2, means that the work is not appropriately challenging for all children.

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

The quality of the leadership has a very positive impact on the school. The Christian vision is upheld by the Head Teacher and the staff. It is well supported by the governors and the Parish Priest. It is recognised as a major feature in the school's life by parents and members

of the local community. The Head Teacher provides effective leadership with an established and committed staff team. This is ably supported by the administrative and ancillary staff. This gives a strong sense of stability and security for all involved in the school and has a positive impact on the children's attitudes to their work and their behaviour. The governors have an active and effective presence in the life and work of the school. Their work and support is enhanced by the commitment and service of the Chair of Governors. There is a true sense of common purpose established between the school and the church which encourages recognition of the advantages in sharing gifts of time and skills. Members of the church volunteer their involvement in extra-curricular activities. Two of these church members act as leaders of the Christian Club; a lunchtime activity for the children. Parents are supportive and there is an active Friends of Copp School which runs social and fund-raising events. It encourages and involves the support of the local community. This builds up the children's confidence in recognising their place within a supportive and caring community.

Great Eccleston Copp Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Copp Lane,
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