

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Holbeach William Stukeley Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Spalding Road
Holbeach
Spalding
PE12 7HG

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire
Dates of inspection: Wednesday 28th November 2007
Date of last inspection: 27th and 28th April 2004
School's unique reference number: 120596
Headteacher: Mr. D Flynn
Inspector's name and number: Roger Moore 353

School context

William Stukeley Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is an average size Primary School. Most pupils are from white British backgrounds but there are a growing number of pupils who speak languages other than English. The school prides itself on its relationships within the school and caters sensitively for the needs of all its pupils. Links with the local Church have continued to develop.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of William Stukeley as a Church of England school are good

The Headteacher, staff and governors are rightly proud of their school. Christian values underpin its life and work. The warm and welcoming ethos allows close relationships to flourish strongly. The headteacher has enabled a shared vision and set of values to be lived out in the daily life of the school.

Established strengths

- The daily act of Christian worship, and regular, effective religious teaching in line with the newly introduced Agreed Syllabus.
- Well established partnerships with parents, the Church and local community.
- Pupils feel valued.

Focus for development

- Strengthen and embed the Anglican Faith within the Christian education provided, so that there is a growing presence at more of the festivals within the church calendar.
- Continue to develop and strengthen the links with the Church and community, ensuring that the links are a two-way process which bring church and school together
- Further develop Religious Education in line with the school's intention to create a cross-curricular approach and ensure that monitoring and evaluation strategies are in place so that judgments are secure.

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

The school provides a caring, safe and happy environment in which children are able to learn and flourish. Christian values are promoted throughout the school and are reflected in the displays in the classrooms. In the lessons observed the children showed good knowledge and understanding of the work they were doing, Pupils are confident and well spoken about their experiences. The School Council members appreciate and value their roles of responsibility. Learners of all abilities make good progress and are supported well.

Achievements are celebrated through collective worship. Learners from different ethnic backgrounds live and work together in harmony. They enjoy the collective worship and Religious Education lessons and speak positively of the links between the school and the Church. The school provides a variety of opportunities through its Collective Worship programme to ensure that children experience story telling, drama and musical activities. As a result, children display good knowledge of the Christian aspects of school life. Good role models are set within the school community. The Headteacher and staff lead by example with their high standard of care and respect for each other and the children.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The daily acts of collective worship contribute positively to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children. Collective worship is well planned and provides a positive experience for the children who enjoy their participation and fully understand the messages being given. Singing is good and is improved by the weekly practice. The use of appropriate hymns and the choice of music at the beginning and end of the worship enhance the quality of the occasion by providing a calm and peaceful atmosphere. Prayer and time for reflection are important in the daily life of the school. Children are aware of prayer and use it well to express their thoughts in a sensitive non-threatening way. Prayers are said at lunchtime and before the children go home at the end of the day. Prayer boxes are used regularly by the children. The headteacher is a regular reader of the prayers and uses them appropriately within Collective Worship. Spiritual development is promoted well through the many occasions when the children have time to reflect and think about their work. The children enjoy the opportunity to visit the Church together with the inputs provided by the vicar. The development of the Eucharist Service at Passiontide is seen as a positive step forward in embracing the Anglican Church within the school's Christian Foundation. The school shows sensitivity to the ethnic, faith (and no faith) backgrounds of all those in school, and is dedicated to promoting an inclusive ethos within its Christian foundation.

The effectiveness of the religious education is satisfactory

Observations during the inspection indicate that the teaching and learning in Religious Education is good. Children are keen to get engaged in the range of interesting tasks set by the teachers. Good use is made of the school's ICT facilities. Relationships within the classroom are very good and enable effective learning to take place. The SEAL programme is providing good support to both the Religious Education and collective worship programme. Displays in and around the classrooms are well maintained and help to promote the children's understanding of Religious Education. The school, under its leadership team and with the guidance of the Religious Education Co-ordinator, is currently reviewing its approach to the curriculum. In line with the Agreed Syllabus the School is aiming to raise the profile of Religious Education to a level appropriate for an Aided school. The school recognises the need to provide a more skills based/cross curricular approach to further improve the teaching and learning and standards in Religious Education.

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 by his staff and governing body. Under his leadership, the school is now able to focus on developing the school as a church school. The school shows great determination to communicate its distinctiveness as a church school to all its stakeholders. The Christian status is made explicit through letters and documents although this could be further developed visually within the school. Major festivals are celebrated in church. The leadership team of the school have become more focused about their roles and responsibilities in monitoring the school's Christian Foundation and purpose, demonstrating a commitment to continual improvement. The Christian values are evident through the high quality relationships, behaviour, care and support of all members of the school community.