

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Kirk Ireton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Main Street
Kirk Ireton
Ashbourne,
Derbyshire
DE6 3DL

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire
Dates of inspection: 4th - 5th October 2006
Date of last inspection: 23rd - 24th May 2001
School's unique reference number: 112832
Headteacher: Mr Peter Johnston
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Zita Roscoe 292

School context

Kirk Ireton is a small village school in a rural setting. The 46 pupils on roll come from a wide socio-economic mix. All the children are from white, British backgrounds and the majority of the families live either in the village or close by. This is the headteacher's first year in post. The present school, which was built in 1882, has had one extension. However, space is still limited. The school does not have a hall.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Kirk Ireton as a Church of England school are outstanding

Christian principles are embedded in this school. Relationships between the school, church, parents and local community are particularly close. Pupils are happy, confident and caring of each other. Parents and community are very supportive of the school and the special services it holds. Contributions made by the clergy, PCC and Governors are invaluable.

Established strengths

- Excellent links with local church and community.
- Awareness of environmental issues & fund raising for local and world-wide charities.
- High quality Acts of Worship where pupils are encouraged to contribute.
- Commitment of the Headteacher, the staff, Governors and clergy to its Christian status.

Focus for development

- Review Collective Worship themes and planning systems involving adults and learners.
- Write a separate statement for Collective Worship in the school brochure.
- Celebrate the school's Christian status more explicitly through a visual statement upon entry to the school.

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

Confident, self disciplined, happy and caring pupils demonstrate awareness of Christian principles. Each child's needs and views are taken into consideration. All children interviewed voiced their delight in coming to school. The school's open door policy encourages parents to bring their child(ren) into school each morning. Any issues concerning parents/children are dealt with immediately. Older children look after the younger ones and the Problem Busters system encourages these pupils to mediate where conflicts may occur. Regular questionnaires to parents keep the school informed of current issues. This school does listen to its pupils. A calm, relaxed atmosphere, where a culture of praise predominates, is

testament to this. Pupils are aware of environmental concerns and regularly fund-raise for local, national and international charities each year. They are given the opportunity to express their views during Circle Time, Collective Worship and through committees; consequently they are developing into responsible people who feel that their opinions are valued.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Good resources enable the school to provide high quality Acts of Worship which take place at the beginning of each day. In spite of the limited space, a suitable environment is created for worship by the moving of furniture. Prayers are said before meals and at home time. Whenever possible all staff attend the Acts of Worship. The excellent links with the parish church, the encouragement pupils are given to plan and lead worship themselves and the visits to different places of worship enhance the pupils' experiences. RE planning recognises the Christian year and major Christian festivals are celebrated both in church with the village community and in school. All children are aware of the importance of worship. They participate enthusiastically and with reverence. Their spiritual growth is demonstrated through responses to questions posed:- "We learn about God", "We learn about being kind and respectful", "Jesus is the light of the world". Good recording systems for Collective Worship are in place but forward planning could be more detailed in order to provide continuity and avoid repetition. Church services are very well attended by parents and the village community. The Wirksworth Team Ministry, members of which lead Collective Worship in school once a week, fosters ecumenical links. The incumbent sees this link as "Interweaving between church and school".

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

The newly appointed Headteacher, the staff and Governors are committed to the Christian ethos of the school. The excellent support the school receives from the church is a valuable asset. The school and church are seen by all as being the heart of the community. Excellent links with the community enhances the school's status as a church school. The Foundation Governor, who is a voluntary helper in the school and is also the Church Warden, gives regular reports about the school's activities to the PCC. The new Headteacher plans to give RE and Collective Worship a high profile in his revised School Improvement Plan. All parents speak highly of the way in which the school seeks and values their views and cares for their children.