

Mapperley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Lodge Road
Mapperley
Derbyshire
DE7 6BT

Diocese: Derby

LA: Derbyshire

Date of Inspection: 22nd September 2009

Dates of last inspection: 22nd-23rd May 2006

School's Unique Reference Number: 112836

Headteacher: Amanda Godber

Inspector's name and number: Alastair Wood 575

School context

Mapperley is a small school of 60 pupils mainly from the village of Mapperley and the surrounding area. The Foundation Stage pupils are taught within Key Stage 1 with a new additional classroom for the youngest pupils. Key Stage 2 pupils are taught together. Virtually all the pupils are from white British backgrounds. Very few pupils are entitled to free school meals and the number of pupils with special educational needs is broadly average. The school holds the Healthy Schools, Anti-Bullying and Eco-school awards.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Mapperley as a Church of England school is good

Christian values underpin excellent relationships at all levels in this warm and welcoming primary school. A calm and caring family atmosphere is apparent throughout the school. The pupils are happy and confident and the school is well supported by the local community, staff, parents and governors.

Established strengths

- Good Christian leadership provided by the headteacher and her team within a supportive and caring environment
- The quality of relationships between staff, parents and pupils makes this a happy, family - orientated school where everyone is valued

Focus for development

- To provide opportunities for the older pupils to plan, organise and deliver collective worship
- To further to develop a system of monitoring and evaluation for collective worship
- To celebrate the school's Christian foundation

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

The calm and warmth of the school is immediately apparent to all visitors. The headteacher greets pupils and parents as they arrive at the school, typifying the family atmosphere and underpinning the school's values. The relationships at all levels are supportive and, as a result, pupils feel safe and happy. All pupils' contributions to the development of the school are valued and encouraged. When a group was asked which pupils were on the School Council the reply was that they all were! A reflection that although the Pupil Council makes recommendations, everyone plays an equal part in shaping the life of the school. Each classroom has bright displays and religious symbols and the Key Stage 1 classroom showed pupils' work on other religions, linking their learning to a recent visit to other places of worship. The entrance hall emphasises the school's Christian foundation and long history. An old and treasured display board lists many former pupils' achievements and a Year 6 pupil was proud to discuss his grandmother's name on the list. There is a special table with a cross, religious symbols and a worry box, emphasising the importance of Christian values in the school's work. Notes in the worry box are acted upon swiftly and there is a quiet area where pupils can discuss their worries or concerns with a member of staff. As a result, issues are resolved in an atmosphere of Christian conciliation and pupils have an opportunity to reflect and strengthen their spiritual development. Links with Holy Trinity church are strong and the vicar and his team are regular visitors to the school. Their support for the pupils' learning is evident in the pupils' enthusiasm and willingness to share their enjoyment of their visits. Parents speak highly of the school and appreciate the Christian values and role models of the staff. They feel that they can approach any member of staff with a concern and will be listened to. One parent described Mapperley as: 'The best foundation my child could have.'

The impact of collective worship on the learners is satisfactory

Collective worship for Key Stage 2 takes place in the larger classroom and older pupils assist with the preparation. This helps them to develop their independence. Collective worship is planned thoughtfully and enables all the children to understand some of the variety in God's world through the careful use of visual images and words. A candle was lit during the prayer readings and pupils were encouraged to reflect. The atmosphere was calm although some interruptions distracted reflective thinking and reduced the significance of the occasion. Five Year 6 pupils had written their own prayers which they read to the school, encouraging younger pupils' aspirations. Hymns are sung regularly but music is not used at the beginning or end of collective worship to add to the atmosphere. The pupils know the Lord's prayer and prayers are spoken before lunch and at the end of the day but they have not yet had the opportunity to plan, organise and deliver their own worship. The Key Stage 1 assembly linked well with Key Stage 2 and continued the theme of relationships. This produced thoughtful responses about their favourite animals from the youngest pupils. All the staff take turns to lead worship and most attend each day. The vicar is a regular contributor to collective worship and both he and his curate are very popular with the pupils and staff alike. This enhances the impact of collective worship for the pupils and reinforces links with the church. The whole school attends regular worship at Holy Trinity church in the village every month and parents attend when they can. Connections between the community and the school are strong. The foundation governor is very active and ensures effective links with the parish and the school has a regular page in the Parish Magazine, helping to foster links between both communities. Although there is clear planning for collective worship, the monitoring and evaluation of its impact has not yet been fully established.

The leadership and management of the school as a church school is good

The headteacher, staff and governors form a strong, effective and friendly team. They know the children well and they know most of their parents and grandparents too. This enhances the family atmosphere of the school. The headteacher promotes a vision which effectively leads the whole school community on a shared journey of learning together. This benefits the pupils in becoming rounded citizens with a strong sense of Christian values. The headteacher has built very effective links with Holy Trinity church through the vicar, curate and foundation governor and also with the local church schools' cluster. This has resulted in strengthening community cohesion and sharing resources. The pupils' awareness of other cultures is developing through a carefully planned curriculum but at the moment, is in its early stages. The school development planning includes its partnership with the church ensuring that the school's foundation and its values are a regular part of every governors' meeting. All the staff have attended recent training in RE and collective worship which is helping them to deliver collective worship and enhance the pupils' learning through imagination and creativity. The school invites parental comments through its annual questionnaire and uses this information effectively to make changes and to consider parents' views about the future development of the school. As a result, parents say they are well-informed about the school's work. The governors are closely involved with the school and the chair emphasised the learning together nature of the school as they work towards common goals. He is often at school at the beginning and end of each day and parents are able to discuss school matters informally with him. Mapperley school clearly has Christian values at the heart of its daily work: it is a good and effective Church of England school.

SIAS report: September 2009: Mapperley Church of England Controlled Primary School, Lodge Road, Mapperley, Derbyshire DE7 6BT