

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Mount Pleasant Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School**

Princess Road,  
Market Weighton,  
York,  
East Riding of Yorkshire,  
YO43 3BY

#### **Diocese: York**

LA: East Riding of Yorkshire  
S.I.A.S. Inspection: 4-10-06  
Date of last inspection: July 2001  
School's unique reference number: 117982  
Headteacher: Mr. I. Merryweather  
S.I.A.S. Inspector: NS129 Mr. J.W. Bradley

#### **School Context**

Mount Pleasant Junior has 228 pupils on roll and is situated in an area of mostly private housing in this market town to the east of York. The great majority of the pupils are white British and none speak English as an additional language. The headteacher has been in post for six years.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Mount Pleasant Junior School as a Church of England School are good.**

The aims of the school now very clearly promote Christian values and there are increasingly fruitful links with its church. The atmosphere in the school is one of caring co-operation where all feel involved and nurtured. The governors are well led by a committed Christian who appreciates and actively promotes the Church School status.

#### **Established strengths**

- The caring Christian atmosphere evident in the school which is for the benefit of all.
- The commitment to a Church School shown by Head, Chair and Clergy.
- The support for this Christian school evident from the parental body.

#### **Focus for development**

- Governors, led by the Foundation members, should more actively focus upon what should be distinctive about their Church School.
- Collective worship to be more clearly recorded and evaluated and to be known as 'Worship' rather than 'Assembly'.
- An increase in the number of staff and governors and particularly the incumbent, in the future planning of Collective Worship.

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

The Christian ethos of the school is promoted well for the benefit of all by the atmosphere created by head and staff, supported by governors and clergy. Children are very aware that they attend a Church School and of the benefits this brings regarding care and support for each other. Children speak very clearly about how well they are cared for and how the school cares about them. The School Council speak enthusiastically about their role and of the importance played by the pupil led playground mediation scheme. Children enjoy their school, feel safe and looked after and understand the need to care for one another. The children are well behaved, polite and welcoming to visitors. Religious Education is a key priority on the current School Improvement Plan, thus highlighting the important role the subject is afforded

regarding the whole school Christian ethos and evident atmosphere. Recent parental and pupil questionnaires are evidence of the very high levels of satisfaction in the caring environment the school provides. There would be benefit to the children's spiritual development by an increased number of displays and areas of focus relating to the Christian ethos of the school.

**The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is satisfactory.**

Worship is very much part of the Christian ethos of this school. It is very much concerned with the school coming together where all are respected and the school's values are encouraged and celebrated. The Anglican tradition is well served by following the church's year and by input from the enthusiastic incumbent. Its future development is now a part of the School Improvement Plan, showing the school's recognition of the need for changes in its organisation. There is a need for more detailed evaluation and recording and there should be increased input into the planning from staff, governors and particularly the incumbent. More time should be allocated for reflection and prayer. Although space is limited, parents should be invited to attend collective worship more often than is currently the case. All teaching staff attend Worship, but this is not so for other members, thus reducing the impact of a whole school occasion. 'Assembly is good because we are all together', said by one pupil, was echoed by others.

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

Governors speak very highly of the headteacher who perceives his role very much in terms of the school having a strong Christian ethos. The Performance Management process for the headteacher, led by governors, emphasises his role as a Church School Head. The impact is that of raising awareness of the crucial importance of these aspects of the role. 'All children and staff matter to God' and this can be seen in the way they are treated, plus the attitudes regarding the school shown by staff, governors and parents. All school policies are monitored by governors for their 'sympathy with the Christian ethos', which leads to discussion at governor's meetings. Governors do not, as yet, formally assess or monitor the school's progress towards its Christian vision. Parents are regularly asked for their views, but this does not include a Church School element. Links with its church are good; the congregation attend school functions, prayers are regularly said for the school and the incumbent is well known to all the pupils. The benefits of these links are well understood both from the point of view of the school and the wider community. As a result this is a very caring school where a Christian ethos is very much to the fore.

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