

# National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

## **Naburn Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Naburn  
York  
YO19 4PP

### **Diocese: York**

Local authority: York  
Dates of inspection: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007  
Date of last inspection: March 2002  
School's unique reference number: 121537  
Headteacher: Mr Rupert Griffiths  
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Celia Roberts NS469

### **School context**

Naburn Church of England Primary school is a small school of 73 pupils, situated in a village south of the city of York. Pupils are drawn from the relatively advantaged villages of Naburn, Stillingfleet and surrounding area. All pupils are of White British origin. There are four pupils with special educational needs.

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Naburn Primary as a Church of England school are good**

Naburn school works closely with the local church community to create a distinctive Christian character. Christian values of love and care are central to relationships and enable pupils to achieve their best academically, socially and spiritually. Collective worship and religious education are fundamental in developing the Christian ethos. The pupils and parents feel it is a good school and are able to talk openly about why the church status is important.

### **Established strengths**

- Strong leadership and commitment of the headteacher and governing body
- The dedicated and strong team of staff who enable pupils to achieve their best
- The quality of care and relationships within the school community, which provides a strong basis for effective learning
- Strong links and good relationships with parents

### **Focus for development**

- Develop self – evaluation of the school as a church school for all stakeholders
- Develop a formal system of monitoring and evaluation for collective worship
- Broaden the range of denominational and faith visitors in collective worship
- Reflect the school's Christian aims in documentation and communication with parents

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

The Christian ethos in the school is very strong and is reflected in the total commitment to the development of the whole child within a supportive school community. Christian values permeate relationships within the school and this can be seen in the quality of care for children. All pupils feel safe, valued and special. Inclusivity is a natural part of the school approach and parents particularly value this aspect. The atmosphere around the school is relaxed but purposeful, and together with the strong Christian ethos enables pupils to achieve their best. Pupils are proud of their buddy system, emphasising how older pupils help younger ones at every opportunity reinforcing the Christian teaching of the 'golden rule'. Levels of self - esteem and confidence are high and directly influenced by the excellent role models of staff, who put Christian values into practice, enabling pupils to flourish not only academically, but morally, socially and spiritually. Global awareness is a strength of the school affirmed by strong links with a church school in Ghana, and a recent Fairtrade

fortnight, enabling pupils to reflect on broader moral and social issues and developing a sense of social justice. The impact of religious education (RE) on the Christian ethos of the school is very good, for example pupils have opportunities to develop their own beliefs and ask fundamental questions about life. Thinking skills and 'philosophy for children' activities support this questioning approach enabling pupils to link religious commitment to everyday life. Displays around school are vibrant, promote a desire to learn, support RE and the Christian ethos of the school.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is good (with some outstanding features)**

Despite lack of space, great care is taken to ensure that acts of worship take place in a well-organised and peaceful environment. Worship is central to the life of the school and has a very good impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. For example time is given for silence and reflection as well as for prayer. The use of music is central to the development of a reflective environment as is the use of visual artefacts, particularly artwork. Christian values are promoted through the use of prayer for example the Lord's prayer and the school prayer. A banner in the main worship area, emphasising the key message of the school prayer is proudly referred to by pupils. Pupils have written prayers for lunchtime and for others less fortunate than themselves, therefore embedding understanding of prayer and encouraging a global outlook. Collective worship is well planned with themes clearly linked to the Christian year. Some monitoring of worship takes place by staff and pupils, however there is no formal monitoring and evaluation. A more formal system would ensure the benefits for pupils' spiritual development. Christian festivals are celebrated both in school and church, which supports a productive link with the parish and enhances understanding of Anglican faith and practice. Pupils enjoy collective worship and look forward to planning acts of worship and delivering them. This strengthens their understanding of worship and reinforces the centrality of worship to school life. All staff and the local vicar deliver acts of worship. Yo Yo, a local Christian youth team are also invited on a regular basis to ensure pupils engage in a variety of Anglican worship. However, the experience pupils have of other denominations and faiths through collective worship is limited.

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

The headteacher has a clear vision for the school rooted in Christian values and has shared this with all stakeholders. His strong leadership skills have enabled a dedicated staff team to flourish and work in close partnership with governors and the local church community. The school is very well led and managed, ensuring it continues to move forward, for example recently receiving an Artsmark award in recognition of their excellence in the arts. Governors are extremely supportive of the headteacher and the school's Christian ethos, but do not yet formally monitor and evaluate the Christian character of the school. The headteacher recognises the need for foundation governor training to take place, in order for further challenge and the development of self-evaluation. All staff work collaboratively and confidently to promote the Christian ethos of the school. Parents speak overwhelmingly of their appreciation of the headteacher and staff and all that the school provides for their children in achieving a high quality education. They also value highly the school's Christian ethos and the impact this has on their children's development and self-esteem. For example one parent mentioned 'There is no doubt in my mind the inclusivity of the school is down to the Christian ethos'. The core values of Christianity are specific in the school mission statement and aims, and in everyday practice. However, this is not yet reflected in all policy documentation and communications with parents. Leadership and management have developed supportive links with the local church community by taking part in services for parishioners, as well as the using the church for RE and collective worship.

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