

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Navenby Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

East Road
Navenby
Lincolnshire
LN5 0EP

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Dates of inspection: Monday 20 November and Wednesday 22 November 2006

Date of last inspection: 9/10/15 July and 12 September 2002

School's unique reference number: 120532

Headteacher: Mrs L Brewster

Inspector's name and number: Mr Peter Riches 283

School context

Navenby Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a medium size school of approximately 200 children. The school serves the village and surrounding areas. There are very strong links with the local Church and community.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Navenby Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School as a Church of England school is good with some outstanding features

Christian values are at the heart of the school and underpin its work and mission within the community. Expectations are very high, and are promoted very well by all adults in the school. There is an ethos of Christian care and tolerance exhibited by children and adults alike.

Established strengths

- Good quality teaching and learning in religious education
- Behaviour and relationships across the school are excellent.
- Moral, social and cultural development is very good.
- There are strong and well established links with the local Church and Diocese.

Focus for development

- To develop the visible evidence of the school's Church status.
- To employ a more consistent approach to collective worship across the Key Stages thus
- ensuring a continuity of experience.

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

The Christian ethos of the school is very strong, and influences all aspects of school life. The whole school community is friendly and welcoming. Pupils speak positively about their experience in this Church school. They feel that their voice is heard and acted upon through their representation on the School Council, and through the high level of concern shown to them by staff. Children commented that being at a Church school was a benefit to them, and they welcomed the input given by Church visitors. Foundation Governors support the school very well and act as critical friends to the Headteacher.

Parents support the school very well, and value the strong links with the Church and community. The outcomes of a recent questionnaire to parents, strongly supports this view. The schools inclusive approach to all learners whatever their background or ability, is seen by parents as meeting children's needs on an individual basis.

The school has well established routines and some pupils act as monitors around the school and during collective worship giving them a greater sense of responsibility.

All staff are very good role models for the pupils and provide a high standard of care and support. Relationships within the school are excellent, and are characterised by a sense of Christian care and respect.

Religious education, whilst not formally reported in this inspection, clearly makes a good contribution to the school, particularly in terms of promoting an understanding of other faiths. Children felt that learning about other faiths encouraged tolerance and they were enthused and knowledgeable about their work which was attractively displayed. There are also valuable links with other aspects of the curriculum for example, problem solving work on Noah's Ark.

The children had an extensive knowledge of well known Bible stories as a result of the Bibles provided by charities such as Bibles for Children and The Lord Wharton's Trust.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The daily act of collective worship is well planned and documented using a record sheet agreed by the school as a whole. Worship is led by a variety of people including the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, and members of staff. The 'Friends of St Peter's' lead one act of worship a week and this enhances links with the local church in addition to reflecting the Anglican tradition. The different styles of presentation keep the children interested, engaged and active in their participation. Collective worship observed during the inspection contributed very effectively to an anti-bullying week. As a result, the children had developed a clear understanding of the notion that they should not be a 'bystander'.

Reflection and prayer time are used purposefully to reinforce the themes which reflect the Christian values held by the school. They allow the children to consider how issues that have been raised impact upon the school and their daily lives. For example, ways in which children could be good friends to others were highlighted in the Key Stage 1 reflection time. Whilst there were effective displays arising from the themes taught in religious education, there was insufficient visual evidence of the school's Christian foundation.

The overall impact of collective worship is good. The provision of a more effective visual focus for children such as a worship table together with a use of music would enhance Key Stage 1 practice however.

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

Through conversations with all stakeholders it is evident that the school takes great pride in its Christian foundation. The information board within school illustrates the important events that are taking place in the school linked to the Church, such as the Bishop's visit. The worship area in the corner of the hall is very effective in highlighting school's Church foundation by displaying the school banner, together with a range of artefacts used for teaching.

The Headteacher, assisted by her Deputy Headteacher leads and manages the school well.

They clearly define and exemplify the values of the school and are developing a clear evaluation of the school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church school. The school's mission statement and documentation all reflect the school's church status.

Parents feel that the school is well led, and that the school's church foundation enhances its effectiveness through the Christian values which permeate through all areas of school life.

The school maintains strong links with the Diocese who provide effective support and training for staff and Governors.

Children's and stakeholders views are regularly sought and acted upon. The identification and addressing of areas for development which inform the School Development Plan is a strong feature of the school's leadership.

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