

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Normanton All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School**

High Street  
Normanton  
Wakefield  
WF6 1NR

#### **Diocese: Wakefield**

Local authority: Wakefield  
Dates of inspection: 15-06-07.  
Date of last inspection: 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March 2003  
School's unique reference number: 108259  
Headteacher: Mrs B L Cunningham  
Inspector's name and number: Denise Brogden 486

#### **School context**

Normanton All Saints CE Infants School is a three form entry infant school and is the largest infant school in the Local Authority. The school is located close to the centre of Normanton and the 39 place nursery is situated a 10 minute walk off site in the centre of Normanton. Almost all pupils speak English as their first language. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties is below average. Learners come from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds. The school has been awarded Investors in Pupils, the National ICT Mark, Healthy School Award and Inclusion Now. It has been re-awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark in 2006.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Normanton as a Church of England school are outstanding**

Normanton Church of England Infants School is an outstanding school that reflects its Christian Foundation well. Its values and aims are clearly rooted in a strong Christian tradition which is at the heart of the school.

#### **Established strengths**

- Strong pastoral and curricular links with the parish church and local Methodist church.
- The high priority given to the spiritual development of everyone in school.
- A quality learning culture and positive ethos reflected in the solid relationships built up in school which provide a secure learning environment for all children.

#### **Focus for development**

- Re-visit planning for Collective Worship to ensure recording and evaluation is more rigorous in order to focus on the impact on learners.
- Build on pupil evaluation of Collective Worship to include evaluation from other stakeholders in school.
- Extend strategies for monitoring standards in Religious Education. Use assessment information effectively to ensure all pupils make the expected progress.
- Use self evaluation to strengthen the Governors role in monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship and standards in Religious Education.

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

The school is strongly committed to the nurture and care of its pupils promoted through clear Christian principles. Children have enormous trust in adults to support them, particularly when they feel vulnerable. They recognise the care given by all members of the school community. Children are encouraged to develop high expectations in all areas of their learning. Children enjoy school and take their role as school councillors very seriously. They

expressed the importance of visiting the local churches for special events and times of the year and the church plays a crucial role in developing the sense of belonging to a wider church family. Parental views gathered recognise their children are well cared for. There are excellent and exemplary relationships evident throughout the school, characterised by Christian care and concern for others and a desire to live out the aims of the school.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Daily Collective Worship is important in the life of the school because it provides an affirming experience for pupils, staff and visitors. It is well planned using a three year cycle. Children clearly enjoy the opportunities to spend time as a whole school in Collective Worship with the chance to celebrate achievements and to spend time listening, singing, reflecting and praying. The opportunity to learn The Lords Prayer is important for the children and the staff. 'Stillness' is becoming an increasingly important aspect of Collective Worship. The behaviour is very good and they showed much eagerness to sing and join in saying prayers. Much work has recently been completed to include SEAL materials in Collective Worship, using Bible stories to engage children in reflecting on social and emotional aspects of learning. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian and honours the Christian tradition whilst also acknowledging other major world faiths. There are strong links with both local churches and opportunity is provided for children to experience aspects of worship on visits to church.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

Standards in religious education are good and most pupils achieve well. The attitude that children have for religious education is positive. They listen well to their teachers and visitors. They give thoughtful responses to questions asked by their teacher and visitors. They are able to ask relevant questions of a visitor and to respond reflectively to Bible stories. Children can say which other religions they have some knowledge of. They can name some Christian symbols around school. Children are given many first hand experiences and they can recall what happened at a mock baptism and wedding. Religious education is well supported by local clergy.

Planning shows clear learning objectives. A greater use of differentiated tasks would enable more able children to be challenged. A more varied approach to assessment would help to inform pupils' learning.

The school recognises there is a need to review and revise the current scheme of work in Religious Education.

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

The Headteacher provides exceptional leadership. Governors and all staff work in close partnership. The ethos of the school is shared, understood and very well supported by all members of the school community. Good links also exist with the wider community. The role that local clergy and the congregation of the local churches play in their support of the school's Christian ethos is an important one. All staff feel valued and are actively involved in furthering the Christian vision of the school. The school welcomes suggestions and contributions from all members of the school community. The voice of children is consistently sought regarding all aspects of their learning. Within this school there is a strong, caring team that provide room for children to flourish.

SIAS report June 15<sup>th</sup> 2007. Normanton All Saints VA Infant School, High Street, Normanton, Wakefield WF6 1NR.