

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **North Rigton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Hall Green Lane  
North Rigton  
Leeds,  
LS17 0DW

#### **Diocese: Ripon and Leeds**

Local authority: North Yorkshire  
Date of inspection: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
Date of last inspection: 7<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March 2001  
School's unique reference number: 121579  
Headteacher: Mrs Alison Hill  
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Linda Hodson (314)

#### **School context**

North Rigton C of E (VC) Primary School is a small, rural school which serves North Rigton and neighbouring villages. It also attracts some families from further afield. There are few signs of social and economic disadvantage and pupils are mainly from White British backgrounds. The school accommodation has been improved and extended in recent times. A number of staff changes have taken place since the last inspection.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of North Rigton C of E Primary School as a Church of England school are satisfactory with some good features.**

The school is well regarded by parents who strongly support its caring ethos and value the good relationships fostered between staff, children and the local community. It provides particularly well for the personal and social development of its pupils.

#### **Established strengths**

- Christian values of caring, sharing and respect for others are strongly promoted.
- Improved cultural links support spiritual development and understanding of other faiths.

#### **Focus for development**

- Fully implement plans to strengthen self-evaluation of the school as a church school
- Embed the work of the worship team to increase the involvement of Foundation governors and pupils in the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship.

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

The school aims reflect a strong commitment to inclusion and it clearly values the individuality of all pupils. Its provision for pupils with learning difficulties / disabilities has been recognised by the award of the SEN Quality Mark. However, the school has correctly identified a current need for some pupils to make greater progress in their learning. Plans are in place to support this. The Christian values of caring, sharing and respect for others are evident throughout the school and are characterised by the positive relationships between children and between adults and children. As a result pupils feel safe and secure and develop positive attitudes to school. They are emphatic that there is no bullying. Parents are appreciative of the high standards of care and the strong promotion of personal development and liken the school to "a big family". Provision of extra curricular activities allows individual talents to be recognised and fostered. Pupils are able to contribute to decision making through the work of the school council and regularly support charity and community events. The school's PHSE curriculum effectively supports pupils' social and moral development. Opportunities to develop an understanding of other faiths and cultures are enhanced through links with a culturally diverse school in Keighley and through interaction with visitors from different faith backgrounds. Such experiences also support spiritual development e.g. following the visit of a Buddhist monk

some pupils were able to reflect on the calming effect they had experienced during a short meditation. Pupils are proud of their school and can't think of much they would change. However, they are not always able to identify or explain some of the distinctive features of a church school.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.**

Worship is an important and integral part of school life and is a key element in its Christian witness. Pupils recognise the importance of worship and clearly understand the Christian values that are promoted. Parents can see that they apply these in their daily lives e.g. in the way that older pupils undertake responsibilities such as serving lunch and acting as "buddies" to the younger pupils. The school holds a daily act of collective worship and, despite the lack of dedicated hall space, creates an appropriate atmosphere through the use of a carefully selected focal point such as candle. Broad themes are followed which encompass key events in the Church calendar. The Eucharist is celebrated twice a term. Pupils understand the significance of this and of other Anglican traditions and are familiar with key Christian prayers, greetings and hymns. They are generally attentive and respectful and give positive and thoughtful responses to questions. Staff provide effective role models through their active participation in worship either as leaders or as worshippers. The school has well established links with St John's Church in North Rigton and St Barnabus in Weeton and holds some acts of collective worship there, particularly those linked to major Christian festivals. Parents welcome the invitation to join with the school on these special occasions. Opportunities are sometimes taken to worship in the open air e.g. on the termly walk to Almscliffe Crag. The vicar and other members of the church community lead worship in school and contribute to the planning and evaluation of collective worship as part of a worship team. This team is to be expanded to include Foundation governors and pupils as the school works to improve and embed its procedures for monitoring and evaluating collective worship.

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

The Headteacher has made a significant contribution to the development of the school and was proud to receive a local Teacher of the Year Award in 2006, following nomination by parents. Together with governors, she provides clear direction for the school and undertakes a regular review of the school's aims. The school's Christian character is reflected in its documentation and is evident in displays. The SEN governor is a regular visitor and her efficient support is greatly valued. However, recent changes in staffing and in the composition of the governing body, including foundation governors, have meant that self evaluation, particularly of the school as a church school, is still at an early stage. The school is aware of the need to develop in this area and has sought advice and support from the Diocesan Education team. Improvements are now planned using the worship team as a vehicle for change. The school enjoys productive and supportive links with the local church and the village community. Church activities such as "Little Saints" and "Sunday Club" are promoted within the school and effective use is made of the church to support learning e.g. younger pupils learn about baptism through role play at St John's. The vicar is very supportive of such activities and enjoys good relationships with pupils and parents, many of whom are not regular church goers.

SIAS report March 2007 North Rigton C of E Primary School, Leeds, LS17 0DW