

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Old Hutton Church of England School
Old Hutton
Kendal
Cumbria
LA8 0NQ

Diocese: Carlisle

Local authority: Cumbria
Date of inspection: 06/02/08
Date of last inspection: January 2005
URN: 112263
Headteacher: Mr Graham Frost
Inspector's name and number: Penny Hollander 526



**Diocese of
Carlisle**

Board of Education

"Every Child Matters To God."

School context

The school is a small rural Church of England School situated in a village in the south east of the Lake District, near Kendal. A significant number of pupils travel from surrounding villages and hamlets. Almost all pupils are of white ethnicity and are from mixed socio-economic backgrounds. Pupil mobility is higher than average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Old Hutton CE School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

The Christian ethos permeates the whole life of the school. Christian values of love, care, respect and responsibility are very effectively demonstrated in the daily life of the school by all members of the school community. There are close links between the school, church and local community.

Established strengths

- The personal development of all pupils within an inclusive environment
- The support and involvement of the church, parents and local community in the life of the school.
- The many occasions that pupils demonstrate care, respect, responsibility and respect towards one another and the wider world.

Focus for development

- More varied formats for collective worship including pupil initiative in leading these times.
- Governor monitoring of collective worship in school on a regular basis

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

The whole school community agrees that this is a very happy place. This is reinforced by the expressed views of different members of the school community. Parents, staff and pupils describe it as a very special place with care, compassion, respect and responsibility being key features of its daily life. The children feel valued and special and clearly enjoy the responsibilities they are given both for themselves and helping others. Older pupils take seriously the opportunities they are given for helping younger ones. They know that the staff in school care about each one of them and they speak freely of the trust they feel and the mutual respect that exists between them and all adults in school. Their confidence in using the online discussion forum to share ideas or issues of concern with their teachers is one indication of this. Any disputes are dealt with quickly and fairly in a spirit of forgiveness and compassion. There is no evidence of bullying. Pupils are proud of all their achievements both in and out of school and these are celebrated on a weekly basis. Respect and understanding is apparent for the differing abilities and talents of all. Pupils' personal development is a key priority of the school and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of this are very well promoted through the Christian ethos. The children clearly enjoy the wide range of activities they have both within and outside of the school environment. They particularly appreciate the residential trip to York with another local school. They also mention a recent visit to Carlisle Cathedral as an important experience in developing their understanding of the Anglican tradition and appreciating their cultural and religious heritage. RE lessons are important in developing pupils' spiritual awareness as a recent visit to a nearby church by the younger children demonstrates and older pupils' consideration of the reasons for the different faces and emotions of Jesus portrayed in art. Children not only enjoy the varied learning experiences they receive but they also appreciate and seek to address the needs of others less fortunate than themselves in a variety of fundraising events. Displays and appropriate Christian symbols in both the public areas of the school and in the classrooms create an awareness of the Christian foundation of the school. The school develops well children's knowledge of the wider world and the understanding of different cultures and traditions. Recent visitors from a French national and students from Capernwray Bible College underline this.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship has an important place in the life of the school. Children are positive about collective worship and particularly appreciate opportunities to take an active role such as writing and reading prayers and role play. The involvement of clergy on a regular basis is evidence of the school's commitment to its Christian foundation. This extends beyond collective worship itself into RE lessons and the running of an after school Quest club. The involvement of all teaching staff in leading acts of collective worship each week ensures that this is a shared experience and responsibility. Children enjoy having visitors to lead collective worship and they indicate that it helps them appreciate the wider nature of the Christian church. Most recently, a French visitor explained the religious significance of Mardi Gras and students from Capernwray Bible College taught pupils a Christian song in a variety of different languages. However, children express a wish for a more varied format to worship times. Greater involvement for pupil evaluation of acts of collective worship is an area for development. Church, school and community links are close. Visits to the church for significant times in the church year such as at Christmas and Harvest ensure that the children learn about Anglican faith and practice. These occasions are well supported and appreciated by both parents and members of the local community. Most recently, a French visitor explained the religious significance of Mardi Gras and students from Capernwray Bible College taught pupils a Christian song in a variety of different languages.

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

The headteacher and governing body work closely and effectively together. They ensure a distinctive Christian vision for the school is realised. All staff are fully involved in this and feel that their views are taken seriously and acted upon where appropriate. Teamwork is an essential ingredient in all aspects of the decision making of the school. Foundation governors ensure that the Christian foundation of the school is upheld. They monitor collective worship. The children appreciate that their views about the development and the progress of the school are actively sought and taken into account through frequent classroom discussion, questionnaires, the school council and online opportunities. They particularly welcome the use of the school's website for daily online discussion and contributing to the School Council page. They show confidence in expressing their opinions and ideas for improving the school. Parents' involvement with and support for the school is clear. All school events are well attended and many parents give help in classrooms in a variety of ways including a Jewish parent talking to children about their faith and offers of transport for off site activities. They fundraise on behalf of the school and organise social events like a family disco. The annual questionnaires express their strong satisfaction with the school, particularly for pupil progress and the ways in which their children are treated. The school is seen as an integral part of the local community. Support is mutual for both village and school events.

SIAS report February 2008 Old Hutton CE Primary School, Old Hutton, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 0NQ