

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Pool-in-Wharfedale Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Arthington Lane
Pool-in-Wharfedale
Leeds
LS21 1LG

Diocese: Ripon and Leeds

Local authority: Leeds
Dates of inspection: 11th December 2006
Date of last inspection: February 2003
School's unique reference number: 108000
Headteacher: Mr Roger Bumby
Inspector's name and number: Jane Rutledge 424

School context

The school is set in extensive and attractive grounds in the popular village of Pool-in-Wharfedale. It currently has 176 pupils on roll, organised across 7 classes. The majority of pupils live in Pool. Attainment on entry is wide-ranging reflecting the varied community which serves the school. There are good links with the private pre-school that is housed in the building. Currently 12.3% of learners have been identified as having Special Educational Needs, and there are very few children from ethnic minority backgrounds. The new Head teacher has been in post since April 2006.

Summary Judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Pool-in-Wharfedale as a Church of England school are good.

The Head teacher, staff and governors are rightly proud of their school. Christian values are evident in all aspects of school life. Learners enjoy coming to school. They appreciate their teachers, lessons and stimulating environment. Their spiritual development is promoted well through a wide range of enriching experiences. The new Head teacher, Chair and Leadership team are committed to further enhancing the school's supportive and caring Christian ethos.

Established strengths

- Exceptionally strong and close links with the local churches and community
- The determination of the new Head teacher, SMT and Governing Body to further promote and develop the school's distinctive Christian character
- Opportunities for spiritual development offered through a range of imaginative activities and experiences, particularly through the work of the Agape group
- A warm and welcoming ethos that is appreciated by all members of the school community

Focus for development

- Further develop the roles and responsibilities of the Leadership and Management team, including the Foundation Governors, in monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the school's provision and progress as a church school
- Implement a review of Collective Worship within school, ensuring that the Foundation Governors are included in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of its provision
- Ensure that a clearer distinction between the Acts of Collective Worship and Assembly is made more explicit to all learners

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

The school provides a caring and secure environment and Christian values are evident in all aspects of school life. Learners of all abilities make very good progress. Each child is a valued member of the school community, and encouraged to achieve their full potential, not just academically, but creatively and spiritually. Relationships are good, and there is a close partnership with families. Through the Agape group, thoughtfully organised by the Governors, learners are able to reflect on their self worth, and are developing a greater sense of empathy towards others in the wider world. This group also serves to enhance the spiritual dimension of school life. A balloon launch with messages of hope, and the building of a cairn in church with individually inscribed stone messages to each other have also enriched SMSC opportunities. Learners appreciate being given roles of responsibility, and are confident that they contribute to the life of the school. Older children partner young ones as they start school, and enthusiastically describe the coffee morning and welcome sessions when they meet the parents of their "buddies". The school's motto "Treat others as you would like to be treated" is lived out in the daily life of the school. Displays throughout the school are vibrant and of high quality. Learners take pleasure in others appreciating their work and efforts. The school promotes global and multi-cultural awareness well through fundraising, charity events and the active support of a child, Brenda, in Africa.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The school has very close links with both St Wilfred's and the Methodist Church. Significant times of the year are celebrated in church, and confirmation classes take place in school. Prayers are said regularly and in different contexts. The children know the school prayer well, and were keen to talk about the different prayer cards placed on the dinner tables each day for private and personal reflection. Acts of Collective Worship are well planned with clear themes. However, although there is an intention to keep annotated records of acts of Collective Worship this is not always implemented. The Act of Worship led by the head teacher was sensitively planned and delivered. Learners engaged with the clear message, and actively enjoyed the experience. Although the governors have been actively involved with the Agape group, they do not currently fully engage in reviewing the provision for Collective Worship within school, monitoring and evaluating its impact on the life of a church school. Not all learners are clear about the difference between Assembly and Collective Worship.

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

The school has successfully communicated its Christian Vision to all members of the school community. The Vision and Ethos statement is regularly reviewed and reflects the life and work of the school well. There are very strong links with both local churches and the community, and the school is a much valued and integral partner. It is actively involved in many local events, and has won community, art and conservation awards. Inclusion is at the heart of the school's endeavours. Parents and learners are regularly consulted and their views and opinions valued and acted upon. Good information is provided to new families and staff, through documents, the website, and welcome meetings. The Chair is a regular and welcome visitor in school, being both supportive and involved in all aspects of its life and work. The school is dedicated to offering an exciting and stimulating curriculum both in and out of school. The new Head teacher, SMT and Governing Body are determined to further promote and develop the school's distinctive Christian character. However, this commitment still needs to become fully embedded across the whole school community. The school recognises the need to further develop the roles and responsibilities of the Foundation Governors in monitoring and reviewing the way that the school's Christian Foundation contributes to its overall effectiveness.