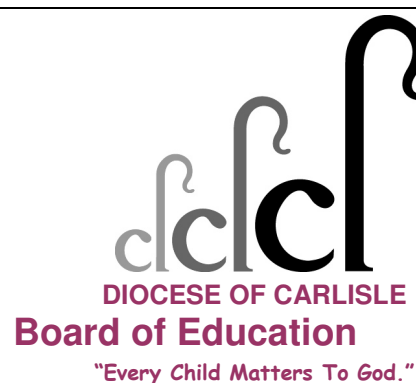


Raughton Head Church of England Primary School  
Raughton Head  
Carlisle  
Cumbria  
CA5 7DD

**Diocese:** Carlisle  
Local authority: Cumbria  
Dates of inspection: 17/11/09  
Date of last inspection: 09/02/07  
School's URN: 112257  
Acting Headteacher: Mrs Mary Alston  
Inspector's name & number: Penny Hollander 526



### School context

Raughton Head CE School is a rural primary school of forty pupils. Children come from a mixed rural catchment and are of white British ethnicity. There are high levels of pupil mobility. During the last two years there have been significant changes in leadership. Two acting headteachers have been in post with a substantive headteacher appointed from April 2010. There have also been substantial changes in the governing body.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Raughton Head CE Primary School as a Church of England school are good

Corporate Christian leadership has ensured that the school has maintained its distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church school since the last inspection. The Christian values it promotes are upheld within the school community. This has a good impact on children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Strong links with the church encourages and nourishes children's knowledge and understanding of Christian faith.

### Established strengths

- Strong relationships between all members of the school community
- Personal development and well being of all pupils
- Effective links between the school, church and local community

### Focus for development

- Governors and staff with the new headteacher review the distinctive Christian character and its impact on all aspects of the school
- Firmly embed links with other communities, including at a global level.

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

Children feel safe and secure within school and describe how Christian values of care, trust and responsibility impact on their attitudes and behaviour within school. Relationships between all members of the school community are a continuing strength. Mutual trust and respect for all is foundational. Children can relate their behaviour to Christian values. "We always care for each other and help where we can. We try to follow what Jesus taught about treating others as we would like to be treated. We need to care for one another as in Jesus' story about the Good Samaritan". All adults in school are good role models for pupils. Opportunities for reflection, the writing and sharing of thoughts and prayers,

promote the spiritual development of all pupils. Strengthened links with the church was a focus for development from the last inspection. This has been addressed and now makes a significant contribution to children's spiritual development. Children are able to offer their own observations and reflections about Christian faith. There have been considerable strides in pupils' awareness and understanding of other cultures, societies and religions since the last inspection. New links with schools in Kenya and a visit from Buddhists are two examples of how the school has successfully widened children's perceptions of the world beyond their immediate environment. "We really enjoy hearing about other peoples' lives and how they are different from our own". The school has identified that these positive changes are not yet fully embedded and this is a focus for development. Children's involvement with other schools has successfully contributed to their social development. The school environment ensures that the children are aware of the Christian character of the school through relevant displays both in the public and classroom areas of the school. Children say that these encourage them to reflect on Christian beliefs and teachings. This is shown through a harvest display which included pupils' prayers of thanks to God for all he gives and the importance of sharing and looking after others and the world in which we live.

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

Children clearly enjoy worship and talk enthusiastically about the ways in which they play an active role in planning and organising parts of worship. They particularly like the fact that school worship times are now held in the hall and say this increased space gives a greater freedom for different styles or forms of worship. They also mention that the permanent fixture of a focus table with relevant symbols and themes is a constant reminder of the Christian character of the school. Worship helps them to reflect on Christian teachings and how this influences their day to day actions. One example is their reflective prayers, written after a recent residential visit, explaining the importance to saying thank you to God for all that he gives. Worship affirms and supports all, regardless of background. The centrality of collective worship to school life continues to be an important feature. Planning and evaluation of these occasions has become more systematic and shared since the last inspection and has a good impact on the whole school community. What has been discussed in worship times is sometimes developed in classroom lessons. The school is aware of the need to continue planning in a corporate way and involve children in evaluating the difference worship makes to their experience of school life more regularly. The strengthened link with the church enhances worship, both through the contributions of the vicar in school and in services held in church on a monthly basis. Children are particularly appreciative of school services held in church for significant Christian festivals. They feel they have an important contribution to make on these occasions. "Everyone has a part to play" and "No one is left out" they say. Children's awareness of the wider church is also well demonstrated through links with the local Methodist Church and also through the visit of a Spanish priest from Uruguay. Pupils' interest and curiosity was clearly demonstrated through their question and answer session with the latter as well as the vicar's ability to translate the language so quickly!

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

Although the school has gone through a time of uncertainty and change in the past two years it is evident that the leadership of the school of a church school has remained stable. Christian leadership is corporate with staff, governors and church working effectively together to ensure that the school's Christian character and values are maintained in difficult circumstances. They are commended for this. However, with the appointment of a substantive headteacher, the leadership and management of the school should now review the distinctive Christian character of the school and its impact on all aspects of school life. This is a focus for development. Pupils can articulate how Christian values influence their attitudes and behaviour. "We belong to a church school and try to respect and care for one another, even if we fall out sometimes". Stakeholders contribute to school's self-evaluation through questionnaires and discussion and the issues raised are addressed and resolved. Leadership in religious education and collective worship is good. Increased monitoring of provision in both areas will help the school to enhance its distinctive Christian character and prepare for future development needs as a church school community. Collaboration between the school and its partners is good at both a local and some wider levels. The children benefit from the expertise of members of the church and local community in activities such as making of Advent candles, Christingles and knitting lessons, whilst adults receive help with ICT skills and support for church and other local events. Both parents and pupils are very positive about their role in school decision making and know that their views are valued. "We all work together to make our school a great place to be".

SIAS report November 2009, Raughton Head CE School, Raughton Head, Carlisle, CA5 7DD