

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Shankhill Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Hethersgill

Carlisle

Cumbria

CA6 6JA

**Diocese: Carlisle**

Local authority: Cumbria

Dates of inspection: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2006

Date of last inspection: March 13th 2002

School's unique reference number:

Headteacher: Mrs M.D.Urwin

Inspector's name and number: P.W.S.Keighley 271

#### **School context**

Shankhill CofE Primary School is situated in north Cumbria. It serves a very rural community. Most of the children are drawn from within the catchment area. Increasingly parents from outside the catchment are choosing to send their children to the school. There are 41 children on roll aged between 3 and 11.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Shankhill as a Church of England school is good.**

Shankhill Church of England Primary School is a very good church school with many outstanding features. Its Christian vision and ethos underpin all aspects of the school life and is valued by all members of the school community.

#### **Established strengths**

- The effective visionary leadership of the Headteacher.
- A vibrant Christian ethos and implementation of a vision for the school by the staff.
- A broad, balanced and enriched curriculum.
- Effective systems for monitoring and evaluating the schools Christian Foundation.
- Good links with the local church and community.
- Excellent relationships throughout the school.

#### **Focus for development**

- To develop planned links between Collective Worship and the taught curriculum.
- To ensure that the excellent links established with the local church and community are maintained with the selection and appointment of a new vicar.

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

All the children are made to feel valued and special. All children achieve their full potential through the opportunities provided by a wide ranging and enriched curriculum. The school is very good at celebrating children's individual successes and achievements. The Headteacher, staff and governors have, in recent times, worked hard and effectively developed the school's Christian Ethos. There is a strong sense of a shared vision by all members of the staff. A number of the staff indicated that, as a result of the school's strong Christian values and direction, they had been encouraged in their individual journey of faith. Relationships throughout the school are exemplary. They are characterised by Christian care, respect and forgiveness. A group of year 5 boys fully accepted the contribution made by several year 2 children in modelling an imaginary 'silage-pit' and in sharing tractors and trailers during playtime. Year 1 and 2 children collaborated and worked well together in sharing resources during an outdoor self-portrait exercise. The children in class 2 were sensitive to each other's needs, while undertaking an environmental project. Behaviour is

excellent. Children have been fully involved in devising a behaviour policy for the school. Behaviour management strategies are monitored by the children. The completed evaluation forms were evidence of their involvement. Children show consideration towards each other and towards adults. Parents feel valued. Several parents commented upon the effectiveness of the school's open door policy, in respect of concerns they might have had about children's learning and progress. Parents are invited to be regularly involved in giving feedback to staff on curriculum, pastoral, behaviour and policy issues. There is a very active and thriving P.T.A. and many parents support the school on the many and varied curriculum opportunities provided. Links with the parish and community are very strong. Collective Worship and Religious Education are well planned and schemes are monitored regularly by the governing body. Faith matters feature prominently in the life of the school. Good links are made between curriculum studies and the children's concern of moral and social issues. The school is committed to supporting various charities. The children's work for, 'Jeans for Genes', Operation Christmas Child and the Tsunami Appeal is impressive. The school's links with a church school in Tanzania impacts very positively, upon the children's understanding of poverty, the developing world, environmental issues and upon their spiritual development.

**The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good.**

All the children who were interviewed, remarked how much they enjoy Collective Worship. Worship has an important place in the life of the school and has a positive impact on the development of children's Christian values. Several children commented that they liked talking to and about God in Collective Worship and Religious Education. Worship encourages children to be reflective. The book of prayers compiled by the children provides strong evidence of the positive impact of Collective Worship. On the day of the inspection the children were invited to think about the things they enjoy and those things they take for granted; things which children in other parts of the world could never afford. Letters, paintings and greetings cards from their linked Tanzanian school-friends had arrived in the post. The children were clearly very excited to read the correspondence and were fully engaged to learn more about life in Africa from their overseas pen-pals. The links that have been established with the Tanzanian school are having a profound impact in shaping children's values and in their tentative steps in the journey of faith. One child commented that she was impressed with the way the African children talk about God in their lives so naturally. Other children commented on how much we seem to have in this country compared with children in other lands. Co-ordination and management of Worship is good. There are good links with the church and clergy. The children liked the way the former vicar used to lead Worship and how he told the stories of Jesus. The local church is well used to celebrate Christian festivals and for curriculum studies. The Thursday club, run by church members, is popular with many children, and reinforces work undertaken in Religious Education. The systems set in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of Worship by the governors, is very good. Further work needs to be undertaken in relation to linking Collective Worship more effectively with other areas of the curriculum. The governors need to ensure that the excellent links with the church are maintained, with the selection and appointment of an appropriate replacement priest.

**The effectiveness of the Leadership and Management of the school as a church school is outstanding.**

The Headteacher and Governing body provide exceptionally effective leadership. Together they have devised and translated the school's policy for Christian distinctiveness into practice. The Foundation Governors and the staff work in close partnership to ensure the school's Christian vision and values are maintained and developed. The procedures to regularly monitor and evaluate Collective Worship, Ethos and Religious Education practice, against policy and the school development plan, is testament to this effective partnership. The leadership of the school provides children with an exciting, creative and rich curriculum and a rounded education that enables all children to realise their full potential. The schools use of the outdoor environment, educational visits and multi-cultural activities is impressive. Parents commented that they feel the school has a special quality which enables all children to flourish as individuals. One parent spoke of the school as being a source of all that is good and true in the community. Another parent said that the school was the life and soul of the community; that it provided children with the spiritual building blocks for life. Effective

leadership enables the staff to learn and grow together and to develop and nurture the school's Christian Ethos. The whole staff, are committed to promoting the school's Christian vision and values. They act as excellent role models for the children. The Headteacher and the Governing body have implemented all the recommendations of the previous denominational report. Leadership and co-ordination of Religious Education and Collective Worship is good. There are good systems in place to evaluate stake-holders views. The results of parental and children's surveys have been used effectively to innovate, change and modify curriculum provision and improve resources.

SIAS report September 2006 SHANKHILL CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL. HETHERSGILL.  
Carlisle.Cumbria.CA6 6JA