

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Sharow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Berrygate Lane

Sharow

Ripon

HG4 5BJ

Diocese: Ripon and Leeds

Local authority: North Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 13th July, 2007

Date of last inspection: March 2005

School's unique reference number: 121588

Headteacher: Miss Lamara McKinney

Inspector's name and number: Linda Hodson 314

School context

Sharow Church of England School is a small school of 42 pupils. Virtually all of its pupils are of White British background and come from Sharow or the surrounding area.

Accommodation has been extended since the last inspection with younger pupils now being taught in the former school house. The headteacher joined the school in a temporary capacity in January 2007. Her appointment was made permanent from March 2007.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sharow C of E (VC) Primary School as a Church of England school are good with some outstanding features.

The new headteacher is ensuring the continued development of the school and is effectively supported by staff and governors in promoting a distinctive Christian vision. A strong Christian ethos is very evident and it is clear that all pupils are highly valued and nurtured. As a result they are becoming independent and self-motivated learners with high aspirations for the future. The school is now well placed to improve further.

Established strengths

- Highly effective pastoral and spiritual links between the parish and school support the school in promoting its Christian vision.
- Christian values impact positively on pupils' personal development and progress.
- Relationships are characterised by Christian care and concern for others.

Focus for development

- Build on existing links to further develop pupils' understanding of different cultures.
- Supplement the school's resources for religious and cultural education.
- Provide more frequent opportunities for pupils to actively participate in collective worship.

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

In this small school teachers and support staff know the pupils well and are able to provide effectively for individual needs. Pupils therefore feel happy and safe at school and are able to learn successfully. Many stay on after school to attend extra curricular activities or the after-school club. Older pupils confidently explain that they know that they are special and valued because the school celebrates and rewards their achievements with merits and certificates. They recognise that their teachers work hard to make learning fun and appreciate positive feedback about their work because "it makes them feel warm inside". Parents value the positive interaction between older and younger pupils and the friendly, family atmosphere. Relationships within the school community are particularly strong and are characterised by Christian care and respect for others. Parents know that if they raise any concerns with staff the issue will be dealt with quickly. Any conflicts are resolved within a framework of truth, forgiveness and reconciliation. The use of circle time and strong focus on social and moral education has resulted in significant improvements in pupils' behaviour. The school's

curriculum, enriched by educational visits, allows pupils to develop an understanding of spirituality whilst links with schools in Bradford and Uganda provide opportunities to learn about different cultures and faiths. However, the range of books and resources available to support this provision is limited at present.

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

Worship clearly occupies a place of central importance in the life of this school and provision for collective worship is routinely monitored and evaluated. A recent review has resulted in many positive changes and improvements in organisation and planning. The rainbow coloured Jennyruth cross now provides a striking focal point in the school hall. Pupils are aware of its significance as a Christian symbol and are proud of the work they have done to support this charity. Recent Diocesan guidance underpins the new plan for collective worship. The chosen themes will help to further pupils' understanding of Anglican traditions and the key events of the church year as well as promoting Christian values such as respect, love and forgiveness. During collective worship there is an atmosphere of calm and respect which encourages pupils to give positive and thoughtful responses. They recognise that this is a time when they can talk to God, think of others and give thanks. Parents welcome the opportunity to attend acts of collective worship both in school and in church. The latter are often linked to the celebration of major festivals. At these times, pupils are active participants in the worship and are able to express themselves through drama, music and prayer. The inclusion of pupil led activities on a more regular basis would enhance existing practice. The school benefits from very strong links with St John's Church and local clergy, together with the Methodist minister, form part of a team which regularly leads worship at the school.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good overall with some outstanding features.

The way in which this school's leaders and managers promote a distinctive Christian vision for this school is outstanding. This vision is particularly well articulated by the headteacher who is providing clear direction for the school. In a short period of time, she has built on existing strengths and moved the school forward. Standards are rising and provision for collective worship has improved. Self evaluation of the school as a church school is developing. The good practice evident in the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship provides a firm basis for future work in this area. Foundation governors understand their particular responsibilities and ensure that the school's distinctive Christian character is evident in public documentation. They are aware that further attention could be paid to how this is reflected within the school building. Pastoral and spiritual links with the Parish are particularly strong and effective use is made of Diocesan training to support development needs. The school is very much at the heart of the village community and is well supported by the Friends of Sharow School. The building is used by many community groups including the village playgroup and the Sunday Club known as 'Jesus and Me.' Visitors are able to see the school in action during the termly Open Days.

Sharow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Berrygate Lane, Sharow, Ripon HG4 5BJ July 2007