

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

South Cave Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church St
South Cave
Brough
HU15 2EP

Diocese: York

Local authority: East Riding of Yorkshire
Dates of inspection: 23rd September 2008
Date of last inspection: 10-12th April 2002
School's unique reference number: 290994
Headteacher: Mr John Killeen
Inspector's name and number: Roger Highton (336)

School context

South Cave is a market town 5 miles West of Hull. It is a large rural school that attracts pupils from the surrounding villages. The school comprises of a set of classroom blocks that are spread across well maintained grounds. Pupils' attainment on entry is broadly in line with national expectations and the number of pupils entitled to free school meals is well below the national average. The pupils achieve good academic results.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of South Cave Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

The relationships throughout the school community are outstanding. There is a thriving Christian community in the town that supports the school and its pupils. Religious education makes a big contribution to the school's distinctiveness as a church school. The outstanding leadership of this school ensures that everyone shares a vision based on Christian values and beliefs. Every child feels well cared for and supported.

Established strengths

- The seamless mutual support between church, school and community
- The outstanding leadership offered by staff, the church and governors
- The care pupils show for one another

Focus for development

- To increase the opportunities for parents to attend worship with their children
- To develop the impact of collective worship through seeking feedback from pupils

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

The school makes excellent provision to meet all the needs of its learners. They feel well cared for and safe; including those who have special educational needs and those experiencing difficulties. This is because there are strongly held Christian values and beliefs that enable a wonderful sense of friendship to be observed throughout the school. Pupils feel they belong to something special and their happiness shines through. They appreciate that South Cave is a church school, as one commented, 'This is a school that really cares about God'. Christian symbolism is used to declare the school's church status and the school prospectus refers to its Christian aims and support of the church. Religious education is an important subject that is enjoyed by learners and their teachers. The views of pupils have been sought to make the lessons more interactive and engaging. The pupils are quite happy to talk about their own spirituality and are able to listen and appreciate the views of others. Many parents attend Church and approximately 70 pupils attend Sunday school. A mutually supportive and seamless relationship exists between the Church and community. For

example, the Church helps the school deliver the annual Mega Star town festival and the school hall was used for Sunday services when the church was recently being refurbished. The distinctiveness of this school as a church school is so strong that families actively seek to send their children here. South Cave Primary is founded on core Christian values such as thankfulness, compassion and hope.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is central to the life of this school. Parents have little opportunity to attend acts of worship in school, but they fully support the school's celebration of major Christian festivals. Planning is carefully prepared by the headteacher, deputy headteacher and vicar. The deputy and vicar have both attended training on collective worship and have, in the past, sought the opinions of pupils. It appears that learners enjoy daily worship, however, more regular feedback from pupils, parents and governors should be sought. Teachers often attend and deliver collective worship and the pupils' understanding of Anglican faith is enhanced through worship. One pupil when asked what a vicar does replied, 'He makes people happy because he takes care of people – he was asked by God you know.' Collective worship is enhanced through music and multimedia presentations. Those that lead worship often give a bit of themselves so that the experience can have extra impact. An example, seen during the inspection, was a selection of personal treasures brought in by a teacher. These special artefacts were used to show pupils that any object can have great personal value – even an old penny. Prayers are part of each act of worship and are said before the midday meal. Pupils identify well with specific prayers. For example, the seven children interviewed by the SIAS inspector spontaneously recited the school creed. There is also a prayer box in the hall in which pupils place prayers that can be read out during acts of worship. This is well used by pupils. The good quality of collective worship enables pupils to develop a very positive sense of self which helps them deal with difficult situations. One pupil remembered hurting another and it was through prayer he was able to say sorry and make good his mistake.

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

The headteacher believes that for many pupils their only contact with the church will be through school, so it is important that they have opportunity to experience the Christian way of life. He works with his staff, the church and governors to model Christian principles that will prepare all learners for adulthood. He has ensured that the best relationships are nurtured throughout the community. The headteacher and deputy set a good example by being willing to do anyone else's job if required. The result is that all adults in school give their all to support and guide the children - the pupils appreciate this. The deputy has been very effective in her leadership of religious education. Open consultation has led to actions that have impacted positively on the teaching and learning of this subject. When pupils were asked how they knew religious education was an important subject one replied, 'Because of the way Ms Clarkson organises it'. The vicar makes a considerable contribution to the leadership and spiritual health of the school, making weekly visits to deliver worship and support. He has also nurtured an effective system of distributed leadership where foundation governors ensure the school's church status is considered in strategic decision making. Foundation governors are included in all interview panels which assures all the appointed staff are in sympathy with the school's church status. The governing body provides the right balance of support and challenge for the headteacher. The leadership of the school has effectively addressed the recommendations made during the last church school inspection. This is a school that welcomes everyone, has a positive outlook and enjoys being part of a healthy and vibrant community.