

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Staindrop Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Black Swan Wynd
Staindrop
Darlington
DL2 3NL

Diocese: Durham

Local authority: Durham County Council
Dates of inspection: 30th January 2007
Date of last inspection: 12th, 19th, 21st March 2002
School's unique reference number: 114226
Headteacher: Mrs Jennifer Brown
Inspector's name and number: The Revd Nicholas Chamberlain 508

School context

Staindrop C.E. (Controlled) Primary is a very popular medium sized primary school set in a small village in County Durham. Pupils come from the village and neighbouring communities. The school's popularity means that teaching currently has to take place in the hall. There are plans to develop the beautiful grounds. Any possibility of extending the teaching areas should be eagerly grasped.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Staindrop C.E. (Controlled) Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

The school places service to its diverse community at the heart of its mission. The Christian foundation and profoundly embedded ethos is lived out in real care and love for all the children, and for the adults who are associated with the school. The school's knowledge of its children and commitment to their development as human beings is outstanding.

Established strengths

- Every person connected with the school is valued for who they are. This valuing extends to a deeply held commitment from the school to the local parish.
- Collective worship that is vibrant yet reflective is deeply appreciated by the children and contributes to their outstanding personal, social and spiritual development.
- The dynamic and principled leadership of the head and deputy animate and encourage a team of adults that is committed to drawing the very best that is possible from the children.

Focus for development

- Explore the way that the new combination of the parish of Staindrop with the neighbouring parishes of Ingleton and Evenwood presents further opportunities to extend partnerships between church affiliated schools and local worshipping communities.

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

The Christian ethos of Staindrop C.E. School is one of its greatest assets. It strongly influences both the values that are lived in the school and the methods that the school uses to educate and develop the children. The school is filled with happy, enthusiastic, polite, responsible young people; people who are able to reflect on what it means to be a young Christian today. The children prize the school's relationship with the parish church: 'St.Mary's church is our neighbour, literally and spiritually!' This extraordinarily articulate vision that is held by the children is an excellent foundation for further development: 'I feel that services [in church] are special. They only happen three times a year and I feel strongly about them.'

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The children speak and write about collective worship with enthusiasm. They enjoy the singing. Both the music and the opportunity for reflection that is given in worship are of outstanding quality. The worship meshes with and contributes to the school's outstanding achievement in personal, social and spiritual development. Worship which was led by two members of the Red Arrows display team (one a former pupil) was prayerful, celebratory and inspirational. Worship is often deeply thought-provoking for the children. A good example of this is a child's comment on a poem that was used at Christmas: 'Most importantly we had Let Me Come In. It is a poem about a man, his job is unstable, and his kids want everything, and on Christmas Eve he hears a voice saying let me come in. Then the man understands it is Jesus saying let me come into your life and I'll make it better. So he did lose his job but along came a better and then he was happy because he let him come in'.

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

Positive and involving leadership is provided by the head and deputy. With the whole staff they have outstanding knowledge of each child's needs and gifts. The head has ensured that the school is a stimulating environment in which to work. She leads her school with enthusiasm and strength of character. Christian values and practice are incorporated into every aspect of the school's life, but always with great sensitivity. The Governing Body knows its school well.

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