

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Stanhope Barrington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Westcroft
Stanhope
Bishop Auckland
County Durham
DL13 2NU

Diocese: Durham

LEA : County Durham

Dates of inspection: December 2007

Date of last inspection: February 2004

School's Unique reference number: 114217

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Lynn Bainbridge

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number:

Mrs Jane Ackroyd 221

School context

Stanhope Barrington C of E Primary School has 112 pupils aged between 3 and 11. The school serves a small rural town with a wide spectrum of intake. All children are of white UK heritage. The school has a "Surestart Children's Centre" attached, there is a Breakfast Club, After School Club and a number of after school activities are on offer. The school has links with the Methodist Church as well as those with the Anglican Church.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Stanhope Barrington as a Church of England school is good.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Stanhope Barrington C of E as a church school is good. Children are well known and valued as individuals. It is a lively and happy learning community where children make good progress in their spiritual, moral and social development alongside their academic work. Learners speak enthusiastically about their school. Relationships at all levels are good. The Christian ethos underpins all that it does.

Established strengths

- The strong Christian ethos of the school where pupils are nurtured and valued.
- The family atmosphere where older children are extremely supportive of younger children.
- A team of staff and governors working together for the benefit of the children in their care.

Focus for development

- Widen the range of people delivering daily worship.
- Develop the monitoring and evaluation role of governors in relation to collective worship.
- Strengthen the Spiritual section of the PSHE policy bringing in the strengths from the PSHE Development Policy.
- The school should ensure that the new culture of self-evaluation and review permeates all aspects of its life, especially its reflection the delivery of collective worship.

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

The children are happy and confident, they are polite, well-behaved and appropriately welcoming to visitors. The children are very supportive of each other, they enjoy coming to school. They are clear about expectations and consequences. They know conflict is dealt with fairly. This is a school in which implicit Christian values such as courtesy and good-neighbourliness are recognised and lived out. The school's relationship with the local Christian churches (Anglican and Methodist) affords it good opportunities, for example the Sunday School involving the school, via the council, in "Cows for Africa." Excellent displays support religious education. The school actively supports many charities and makes a positive contribution to society, locally and internationally. Within the constraints of its geographical setting the school works hard to give children as wide an experience of the different faiths and cultures that make up our world as possible, through its Religious Education provision, through worship and its provision for Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development.

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

Collective Worship offers an important point during the day to stop and to reflect, and also to celebrate together. Children enter in an orderly and respectful manner. All staff are present and participate in worship. The children enjoy many aspects of worship, commenting favourably especially about singing and "new" stories. There is a need to vary more the way in which the important stories are told in order to avoid the reaction of "long, long stories we have heard before." Children participate well and clearly value the positive way that they are invited to contribute and to take part. Children speak extremely positively of celebration assemblies and enjoy going to church and chapel, they are able to talk about things they have learnt in worship. Worship is planned and evaluated, however its impact could be strengthened by having a more coherent system for doing this. More involvement by all staff in the delivery of worship would enrich opportunities. There are lunchtime and end of day prayers.

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

The school leaders have a clear vision for the school based on a good understanding of the community and their place within it. The head-teacher and staff work well together and are very caring of the children, each other and adults associated with the school. They effectively model Christian values. The Governing Body is active and interested in the life of the school. The school council is proud to represent their peers and are confident that their opinions are listened to; they are particularly proud of the fitness trail which came about as a result of their work.