

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Waterhouses Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Waterfall Lane
Waterhouses
Stoke-on-Trent
ST10 3HT

Diocese of Lichfield

Staffordshire LEA

Dates of inspection: 18th September, 2006

Date of last inspection: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 19th March, 2004

School's unique reference number: 124306

Headteacher: Mr Ian Shackleton

Inspector's name and number: Miss R.F.James No 408

School context

Waterhouses Church of England (VC) Primary School is a smaller than average school with 8 part time and 78 full time pupils on roll. The school serves six local villages. There is no parish church in Waterhouses. The mixed intake of pupils from mainly farming and professional families are all from White British backgrounds. The headteacher was appointed in April, 2005.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Waterhouses as a Church of England school are satisfactory.

There are elements of good practice visible in the school and the capacity to improve further is good. The headteacher is working with the governing body to ensure that all pupils are provided with an education that is based on and reflects Christian values. Displays have begun to impact on raising spiritual awareness. Learners say they feel valued and enjoy their work.

Established strengths

- The vision the headteacher has for the school as a church school and his sound and honest self-evaluation.
- Pupils are happy and valued as individuals. They benefit from the family atmosphere showing care and concern for others.
- The displays that have had a positive impact upon the ethos of the school.
- Support for others in need through fundraising.

Focus for development

- Develop ways to ensure that the school community are made aware of the Christian aims, values and ethos of this church school.
- Discuss ways which will excite and draw people to want to work together to create a 'church' in school in this rural community.
- Arrange training for staff and those who carry church/school responsibilities.
- Involve other leaders and children in acts of collective worship.

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

The school has an inclusive approach to the needs of all. Pupils are valued and their opinions and ideas are listened to. Relationships between staff and pupils are generally good. Pupil achievement as individuals and collectively are celebrated with good reward systems and affirmation during Friday worship. At lunchtimes the pupils are encouraged to play co-operatively with the wide range of 'huff and puff' equipment provided. These activities support the healthy lifestyle policy. Moral development is enhanced by the teaching

and learning in R.E. Conflicts are resolved by staff and pupils talking about forgiveness and reconciliation. Pupils know what to do if they have a problem. Concern for the wider world is demonstrated through the charitable efforts they undertake. Religious objects and symbols, the mural in the hall and special corners have an impact on learners' spiritual development. The prayer card and flowers on the dining room table provide a focal point as does the quiet area where it clearly stated 'prayer changes things'. The annual Christian 'Lighthouse' gathering in the Easter holidays is well supported by the school community and provides a foundation on which to build further links. Parents are aware that it is a church school.

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

There is a planned programme for worship based on Every Child Matters for the year ahead. Music is played and there is a sense of order when entering and leaving the hall. The candle is lit by the worship leader and there is a worship table. Visual aids are used to engage children. Hymns and songs are appropriate and the children join in enthusiastically. Some of the spiritual impact in worship is lost because insufficient time is allowed for private reflection and pupils have yet to learn the value of silence. The foundation Stage worship was linked to the current theme. The children have knowledge of the Church Year and key Christian festivals. They visit one of the churches for Christmas and the Methodist Chapel for Easter. Other festivals are celebrated in school. There is a willingness on the part of the Vicar to be more involved along with the Foundation Governors in planning for Worship. Pupils would welcome more opportunities to lead worship themselves.

A Worship action plan is included in the School Improvement Plan for 2006-2007.

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

The headteacher is committed to develop the full potential of all members of the school family. His Christian leadership provides a positive example of care and concern for all. He is driving the agenda of what it means to be a church school and is keen to work in partnership with the Foundation Governors and the Diocese to improve the Christian distinctiveness of the school. The headteacher, staff and governors are reviewing the mission statement and aims. These will be included as an appendix in the prospectus so parents are informed. Named governors need to be involved in the R.E. monitoring and evaluation. Most parents and pupils feel secure in the knowledge that their views are listened to and that the school provides a safe learning environment. Pupils' personal development is good. The views of pupils are well served by the School Council which influences decision making. All pupils have discussed which charities in the local community and further afield to support in the year ahead. The management of Religious Education is satisfactory. The teaching of this curriculum area is done by the headteacher throughout the school. Children spoke with enthusiasm about the dove mobiles they had made. Circle time is well utilised. The school provides professional and pastoral support for the staff and there is effective induction for new staff members. The school has a positive outlook and is working hard to ensure a successful future.