

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Green Hammerton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

York Road

Green Hammerton

York

YO26 8BN

Diocese: Ripon and Leeds

Local authority: North Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 22nd October 2012

Date of last inspection: 28th March 2007

School's unique reference number: 121564

Headteacher: Ms Carol Wallis

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Lynne Gillions 662

School context

Green Hammerton Church of England Primary School has 89 pupils on roll. The school is situated in the heart of the village between York and Harrogate. The percentages of children with special educational needs and those receiving free school meals are well below the national averages. All pupils are white British. There has been some disruption to staffing in the last year but the Headteacher has been in post for a number of years.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Green Hammerton Voluntary Controlled Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

This school is characterised by its Christian ethos which is central to all aspects of school life. Children are loved and nurtured as individuals and they enjoy school. They are offered a range of experiences which help them to fulfil their potential and achieve very high standards. The School has maintained the strengths from the last inspection and addressed the areas for development.

Established strengths

- The strong Christian ethos, enhanced by the relationship with the church, which permeates all aspects of school life
- The leadership and commitment of the Headteacher, Staff and Governors in providing a stimulating environment where children are happy and enthusiastic about learning
- The school's emphasis on meeting the needs of all the children and enabling them to flourish and develop as rounded individuals

Focus for development

- Extend children's understanding of the world in which they live by enhancing global links.
- Formalize some of the strategies for self-evaluation to provide a stronger evidence base when reporting to the Governing Body on the school's progress as a church school.

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

The school was accurately described by a parent as 'happy and buzzing'. This is a place where children are 'first and foremost' and given every encouragement to develop their abilities and talents to the full. Christian values form the foundation for the high quality of education and they underpin and influence all aspects of school life. Parents said that 'all children get an opportunity to succeed' and 'it all stems from the Christian ethos'. Children are confident and happy and flourish in this nurturing environment. 'Each child is valued for who they are and that's because of the Christian ethos.' Although it is a small school children have a wealth of opportunities to fulfil their potential both through the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities. They are given extra support where necessary in the classroom and through activities such as the Maths Club. Extra-curricular clubs are provided by staff, parents and parishioners. Parents appreciate the opportunity for every child to play a musical

instrument and to participate in a range of sports and competitions with other schools. The choir sings at a local residential home, a day centre and at church. Involvement with the church, with village life and with fund raising for charities helps the school to be 'both community based and outreaching' and 'it helps raise the children's awareness of their place in the community and their responsibility to one another'. They learn about other faiths and cultures and the school has identified raising awareness of global issues as an area for further development. The school's character is enhanced by its mutually supportive, strong relationship with the church. Behaviour in school is very good and older children help the younger ones. There are opportunities for children to take on responsibilities such as on the School Council or Eco Committee or as class monitors. Parents and children say any concerns are always listened to and appropriately addressed. Relationships between all stakeholders are excellent and these are related to the Christian values of the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is central to the character of this school. Children are very positive about worship times. They enjoy singing, stories and they particularly like it when it is their turn to carry the candle and to read their own prayer. They enjoy the responsibilities they are given in daily worship and in the special services in church. Children said that collective worship made them think about how they lived and taught them new things. It is well planned and all staff and some visitors help to lead it. Members of the church lead two Key Stage acts of worship each week. Special services are held in church which are planned and led by the children. Classes also help plan and lead collective worship in school. Pupils sometimes participate in Sunday services. All stakeholders were very positive about the link with the church saying that it enhanced the children's education and experience at school. In an observed act of worship, which was well led by the Headteacher, children participated fully and with enthusiasm in singing, carrying the candle, answering questions, reflecting and reading a prayer. They were also responsible for projecting images and organising the music. The structure of worship times gives children opportunities to take on responsibility and they do this with confidence and integrity. They contribute their views about collective worship which is reviewed in staff meetings. There is regular governor attendance at collective worship and it is discussed at governors' meetings. Prayers are said at points in the school day and every classroom has a Prayer Corner offering a space for quiet reflection. The children said that they could be quiet there and read and write prayers and think about them. Children are familiar with a range of Anglican traditions and spoke of the liturgical colours, symbols, special services and celebrations.

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

Leaders and governors all confirmed the centrality of the Christian ethos to the life of the school. This shared vision is the motivating force underpinning the success of the school. The Headteacher is committed to leading a school where Christian values guide children to an understanding of their roles in caring for each other and the environment. Everyone speaks positively of these values influencing behaviour and attitudes and binding the school community together. Stakeholders feel listened to and their views are sought and addressed. Parents and children are given questionnaires and the open door policy of the school means stakeholders feel able to express their views and opinions freely. The school has coped well with changes in staffing and the Headteacher is constantly aware of the need to distribute leadership and provide appropriate support and training. Governors are highly supportive of the school and what it achieves and there is regular governor involvement in school life. They are involved in reviews of the school's progress, however, formalizing some of their monitoring procedures would give them a stronger evidence base when contributing to school development planning. Partnerships with the church, community and local schools are beneficial and enrich the children's experiences. Parents are extremely positive about the school speaking of the high academic standards, but more particularly, about the whole experience that the school offers their children giving them opportunities to develop as 'rounded individuals' and preparing them for transition to high school and life in general.