

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Egton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Egton,
Whitby.
YO 21 1UT

Diocese: York

Local authority: North Yorkshire.

Dates of inspection: 4th October 2006

Date of last inspection: 23-24 September 2002

School's unique reference number: 121610

Headteacher: Mrs E. Orland.

Inspector's name and number: Allan Summers 281.

School context

Serving a wide rural community on the edge of the North York Moors and situated adjacent to the church of St Hilda in the heart of the village, Egton CE Primary School is a small school of 43 pupils drawing most of its children from the villages of Egton and Grosmont. The school occupies a beautifully refurbished and well maintained Victorian building and enjoys excellent recently established play, recreation and games facilities.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Egton C E Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

Egton CE Primary School is a remarkable learning community whose ethos of love, care and the well being of all is firmly rooted in Christian belief and action resulting in a happy school where children want to, and do achieve highly. Leadership is dynamic and determined with all responsible sharing a unity of purpose and a clear vision for its continued effectiveness.

Established strengths

- Leadership under the guidance of the Headteacher and the collegiality of all sections of the school community in sharing a common purpose.
- The Christian ethos, which pervades every aspect of the life of the school and in which all learners feel, safe, nurtured, and valued.
- High quality acts of collective worship, which are inclusive and contribute greatly to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners.
- The outstanding contribution made by the children to the management, development and improvement processes within the school.

Focus for development

- The school has a robust plan for school improvement, which gives appropriate weight, time and resources to those aspects, which promote its Christian nature. There were no outstanding issues identified.

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

The Christian ethos of the school is very strong and children benefit greatly from the warm family atmosphere. "Our school is full of friendship", "our school feels safe because we are all friends and family", are just two of many similar comments made. There is an inclusiveness to which all members subscribe and a positive emphasis on empowering pupils to interact in processes of evaluation and planning often reserved for 'management', which adds to their sense of value and worth. "Everyone and their opinion counts", was a very apposite statement from one pupil. From documentation to display, which showed a real vibrancy the school exudes a sense of celebration, quality and care. High standards of work and behaviour are evident in a calm, orderly purposeful school where the pupils are

considerate, helpful and courteous to each other and adults. All are clearly active partners in promoting the Christian purpose of the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is given appropriate prominence and is quite clearly at the heart of the life of the school where the disparate elements are bound together by the mortar of prayer. Worship, which has a strong Christian focus is conducted in a fashion wholly appropriate to the ages and stages of development of the children; puppets frequently make an appearance! When space allows parents too may share these excellent and imaginative religious experiences, which on occasions are taken into the neighbouring churches and have stimulated church attendance. A judicious blend of reverence and humour engages the children who are often invited to participate and share their prayers. Music is skilfully used to create an ambience conducive to prayer and contemplation and there is an infectious enthusiasm in their singing. Planning is thematic but allows room for flexibility and spontaneity and evaluation is thorough involving adults and the children who enjoy their worship sessions and speak of, "a school where you know more about God and this is important because He is always with you".

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Religious Education which is accorded a position of importance in the school curriculum, is planned carefully and delivered enthusiastically using a range of techniques, one of the most effective being drama. Documentation is comprehensive displaying clear links into other curriculum areas such as art and PSHCE where further exploration of concepts and understanding does take place. There is excellent display throughout the school, some with interactive opportunities and children talk animatedly about aspects of work and the importance of the Christian faith. Children work well and make good progress, which is charted using a battery of assessment measures including one to one discussion, in a clear and manageable way. Links to the local churches, which are used as valuable resources, are strong and experiences are enriched by visitors and out of school visits.

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

Led by a quietly determined and inspirational Headteacher, the staff and governors share a unity of purpose and a clear vision for the success of Egton C.E. Primary School. They are passionately keen to provide excellence for all the children. Church status is crucially important and this management team has succeeded in creating a caring learning community rooted in the Christian faith. Structures and systems are robustly in place. These will continue to deliver quality education underpinned by a firm Christian ethos but where 'learning is fun' and children's views are valued. "There is a sense of oneness", said one foundation governor and this is very evident from the responses of everyone associated with the school. The continuing close partnership with the local Churches and the explicit faith of the management team are paramount in developing and maintaining the distinctive Christian character of the school. Parents are full of praise, supportive and very positive about the quality of their children's education and the way they are being prepared for life beyond Egton.