



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Badsworth C.E. (Voluntary Controlled) Junior and Infant School

**Main Street,
Badsworth,
Pontefract,
WF9 1AJ**

Wakefield Diocese

Local Authority: Wakefield

S.I.A.S. Inspection: 10th October 2007

Date of last inspection: November 2003

School's unique reference number: 130964

Headteacher: Mr. M. Letham

S.I.A.S. Inspector: NS129 Mr. J.W. Bradley

School Context

Badsworth Infant and Junior School currently has 195 pupils on roll and principally serves this very pleasant village south of Pontefract. However, over 50% of the pupils attend from outside the recognised catchment area, with a proportion choosing the school for its church school ethos. The great majority of the pupils are white British and none are learning English as an additional language. The headteacher has been in post for just under two years.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Badsworth Junior and Infant School as a Church of England School are good.

A renewed sense of vision regarding the impact of church school status is now a central part of this school's development plan. This status has been reviewed by staff and governors, plus some involvement by pupils and parents. This renewal is building upon an atmosphere where Christian relationships are central to the school's daily life and where all pupils know they matter as unique individuals. The school is well supported by an effective governing body and by its parents, who clearly appreciate the links with both church and community.

Established strengths

- The central place this school occupies within its community, in conjunction with its church, in providing a Christian based education for its pupils.
- The work currently in progress to enhance church school status.
- The wide-ranging consultations regarding the Christian nature of the school, leading to a real sense of ownership by all those concerned.

Focus for development

- To complete the work on definition of Christian values and develop a system for their regular evaluation.
- To develop a system for the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of collective worship.

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

Relationships throughout this school are good and often outstanding. There is a genuine sense of co-operation based upon the Christian values of tolerance, the worth of others and love and care. The members of the highly effective School Council understand the reasons for their involvement and successfully represent their peers. They say 'we have noticed a difference' in the ways pupils help and support each other since they were consulted about the school's ethos statement. They are also very much involved in the school's charitable work, thus enabling all pupils to appreciate the needs of others beyond their own community. Pupils behave well, look after each other and are polite and welcoming to visitors. They are clearly proud of their school and appreciate the care they are shown. Parents are equally supportive and also appreciate the links with the church, described as being 'beneficial to all'. This is clearly a church school, with highly appropriate displays in corridors and classrooms, plus designated areas for reflection, all being testament to the fact. Religious education has a high profile and is good in fostering respect for those of other faiths and cultures. The school is very much part of its community and occasions such as 'Village Day' raise its profile to the benefit of all.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good.

Collective worship is recognised as being very important in the daily life of the school. The atmosphere is certainly that of a community worshipping together. On most occasions all staff attend, thus affirming the collective identity. No use is currently made of a candle to denote the beginning and end of worship. The worship is, however, well planned and recorded and an evaluation system which will include contributions from foundation governors is now in the early stages of development. The content of worship links well with the school's aims and objectives regarding its Christian ethos. Opportunity for prayer and reflection form integral parts of worship, thus enabling pupils to think more clearly about the subject matter and its effects upon their own lives and those of others in different circumstances. This aspect of personal and collective spiritual development permeates the daily life of the school. Regular contributions from a committed incumbent provide the pupils with an Anglican perspective and the Church's year is closely followed, although no use is made of liturgical colour. During times when worship is conducted in church, support from parents is very strong, to the extent that attendance is limited by the size of the building. This is another positive example of how parents demonstrate their appreciation of the links between church and school.

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

The work already done by those concerned with the leadership and management of Badsworth Junior and Infant as a church school has had real and genuine impact upon its ethos. The governing body is well led and now there is a full complement of foundation governors further progress can be made. Relationships between the governing body, a very effective headteacher and staff are good and there is a real commitment to examining and improving the impact of church school status. Links with the church and community are outstanding and the incumbent is well known by all pupils, which strengthens their knowledge that they attend a church school. The pastoral role of the incumbent for pupils, staff and parents is also outstanding and is an overt example of the value of church school status for a whole community. Parents speak very highly of their school and appreciate the Christian care and love shown to their children. 'It really does seem as if all the children really matter' sums up a commonly held view. There are now six strands of the current development plan which link directly to distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church school and work is in progress to implement these aims and recommendations. It is the pupils which matter in this school where feelings of Christian love and care are transmitted to each of them. The school is now well placed to make even further progress.