

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Cawthorne Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Taylor Hill
Cawthorne
Barnsley
S75 4HB

Diocese: Wakefield

Local authority: Barnsley
Dates of inspection: 11th December 2007
Date of last inspection: 6/7th October 2003
School's unique reference number: 106627
Headteacher: Erica Pursley
Inspector's name and number: Alan Thornsby 137

School context

Cawthorne School is situated in a relatively advantaged area, serving pupils from the village as well as from other local areas. There are very small numbers of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds or with learning difficulties.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Cawthorne as a Church of England school are outstanding

Cawthorne is a school in which Christian values are an integral part of everyday life. This has created a challenging, supportive learning environment that is enjoyed by everyone. The links with the church ensure that pupils have a clear understanding of God and worship. This allows and encourages open discussion of 'big questions'. The links with the village community and the Diocese of Mara develop a sense of responsibility and compassion in pupils.

Established strengths

- The commitment of the headteacher and governors to the development of each individual in school.
- The impact on pupils of worship and their ability to relate their daily lives to Christian values and teaching.
- The ability of pupils to talk about spiritual matters.
- The involvement of the school in the local and wider communities.

Focus for development

- Develop the role of foundation governors through monitoring and evaluation of worship.
- Involve pupils in the planning and delivery of worship in school.

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

Christian love is the core of this school and with care and respect, quietly pervades every action and decision taken. Children are enabled to feel safe and supported in their academic and personal development. Cooperation through teamwork is reinforced through posters 'Together Everyone Achieves More.' Pupils created the school motto 'With you every step of the way,' and can explain its meaning at immediate and deeper levels. They have a clear awareness of what it means to belong to a church school and describe the benefits as '*We know how to behave because everyone is valued. No one is left out. You can rely on your friends.*' Forgiveness, following the example of Jesus and Peter's denial is seen by pupils as a key factor in maintaining friendships. They understand the need for respecting other people's views. The Staff have high expectations for each child and their personal and academic achievements are recognised using a range of incentives. Pupils are well

behaved, and show courtesy and consideration for everyone as they move around school. They acknowledge the examples of good behaviour set by each other. Although there are good displays throughout the school, they could be used even more effectively to reinforce values and encourage reflection.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is a powerful feature of the school that informs and reinforces the teaching and values of Jesus. Themes are well planned by the coordinator and clergy team who take a weekly act of worship. Informal evaluation by the staff each half term informs future planning. Biblical stories are presented in a way that allows children to relate them to their own lives. For example, when talking of Jesus' teaching about building the house on the rock, they explain that *'it tells you that you need a good foundation for your learning'*. Pupils explain the significance of ritual as they describe, for example the symbolism of lighting the Advent candles. Their mature explanation of the significance of Jesus as the light of the world shows the extent of the impact of faith on pupils. The quality of spiritual development in worship is outstanding. Pupils are engaged by the quiet presence of the leader, create a reverent atmosphere and sing enthusiastically, often with actions. They are aware of the importance of coming together, sharing stories and quiet times. *'It's about all being together and sharing. When it is quiet, you can replenish your mind with what to do next.'* Prayer is an important aspect of worship for the pupils. They understand the range of prayer, especially as a time to think about asking God to care for family and friends. Pupils of other faiths are included by the use of stories from other faiths that have a shared value, and festivals such as Divali are celebrated. There are good links with both the Anglican and Methodist churches as part of 'Churches together". Staff and pupils regularly contribute to family worship, as well as special services such as Education Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas. The pupils take an active role in these services, but have a limited input in the planning and delivery of worship in school.

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

The head, staff and governing body have a clear vision of providing the best possible spiritual, moral and emotional education for everyone in the school community. Christian values are at the heart of every decision making process. A belief in God and the practical examples of Christian values is present in the everyday life of the school. The school ethos and aims, seen in every policy document, are the result of input by staff, governors and parents. These have also been recreated in a child friendly version so pupils understand what drives the school forward. The school has identified the need to revisit these because of the appointment of new staff and members of the governing body. There is commitment, support and challenge from the whole governing body that is reflected in the school's accurate self assessment and action planning. The role of foundation governors in evaluating worship in the school has yet to be developed. Parents are very supportive of the school and fully appreciate the impact of the school on the lives of their children and the extent of the values shared at school and home. The strong Parents Association is an obvious result of this support. The school has good links with the village community, made through events such as litter picking and planting flowerbeds. Links through the church and diocese with the Diocese of Mara in Tanzania give pupils an insight into one area of their charity fundraising. Pupils also generously support charities such as Operation Christmas Child.