



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Crigglestone St James Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School

St James Way, Crigglestone,
Wakefield, WF4 3HY,
West Yorkshire

Diocese: Wakefield

Local authority: Wakefield

Date of inspection: 23rd October 2008

Date of last inspection: 7th and 8th March 2005

School's unique reference number: 108250

Headteacher: Mrs Colleen Gibson

Inspector's name and number: Denise Brogden 486

School context

Crigglestone St James CE Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School currently has 285 full-time children on role. The school is situated in a semi-rural area, a few miles from the centre of Wakefield. The majority of pupils come from the immediate area which is mainly private housing. Attainment on entry is average or above for the majority of pupils. The number of pupils with special educational needs has risen significantly over the last year. The school holds Investors in Pupils, Healthy Schools, Activemark, ICT Mark and Basic Skills Quality Mark. The school is a Regional Centre for Gifted and Talented Pupils.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Crigglestone St James Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School as a Church of England School are outstanding

Crigglestone St James Church of England VC Junior and Infant School is an outstanding school that reflects its Christian Foundation well. It aims to 'enable each child regardless of race, gender, or ability to achieve their full potential'. The values are clearly stated within the mission statement, highlighting that the school has a Christian foundation where the school seeks to 'educate our children intellectually, socially, morally, aesthetically and spiritually within a school based on Christian principles'. The effectiveness is enhanced by the commitment of the head teacher, staff, governors and members of the local church community to see Christian principles in practice.

Established strengths

- The very strong links that exist between St James Church and school, especially through the support given to the school community by the Canon and foundation governors.
- The atmosphere of spiritual depth which is created in imaginative and inspiring acts of collective worship which provide pupils with an opportunity to gain significant spiritual development.
- Acts of collective worship are very well planned, recorded and evaluated by all stakeholders.
- The views of all, especially pupils, are taken very seriously and ensure pupils have high levels of self esteem and maturity and this results in pupils acknowledging that they are treated with justice and equality.

Focus for development

- To explore and appreciate how there might be more meaningful involvement by other Christian denominations especially in acts of worship.
- To explore how accommodation might be enhanced to have some quiet, reflective space in individual classrooms.

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

The school is strongly committed to the nurture and care of its pupils promoted through clear Christian principles. Prominent whole school displays such as the 'Rule Tree' encourage all pupils to 'be a good role model to younger children' 'say kind things to one another' and 'to be proud of your achievements'. An Equal Opportunities display helps pupils to understand 'we are all equal, it is what is on the inside that matters'. Pupils have enormous trust in adults to support them. They recognise the care given by all members of the school community and recognise that it is a 'kind and caring' school where they always feel safe. Pupils are encouraged to develop very high expectations in their learning and particularly in their behaviour. They have high expectations for their future. Pupils are always extremely polite to each other and to visitors. Pupils say they enjoy school and clearly take their role as school councillors very seriously. One of the roles of the school council is to regularly attend governing body meetings to feedback on the work they have been doing and to answer any questions from the governors. They expressed the importance of visiting the local church for special events and times of the year. They say they know they are part of a church school because of the school logo, a shell to remind them of St James, they 'help one another if a pupil feels upset' and because 'they raise money for charity'. There are excellent and exemplary relationships evident throughout the school, characterised by Christian care and concern for others and a desire to live out the aims of the school. This is particularly recognised in the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs.

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

Daily Collective Worship clearly plays an important part in the life of the school and it provides an affirming experience for pupils, staff and visitors. It is extremely well planned by the worship co-ordinator and all stakeholders are involved in evaluating acts of worship. Pupils clearly enjoy the opportunities to spend time as a whole school in collective worship listening, singing, reflecting and praying. Pupils requested that they have the option of being invited to reflect or pray and, in light of their evaluations; pupils have been given an alternative of being able to concentrate on a lighted candle with their own thoughts about issues raised. When asked what pupils like best about the school pupils report 'prayer time, it is good to talk to God and say thank you for everything'. The school council recognised the importance of collective worship in the life of the school. The importance of worship can be seen when prospective teachers are asked to deliver an act of collective worship at their interview and pupils evaluate what they see and report back as part of the selection procedure. The behaviour in worship is very good and pupils showed much eagerness to sing and join in saying prayers. Older pupils were able to reflect on feelings of being lost and found and to recognise that God is with them always. Younger pupils were given reflection time to create their own thank you prayer on the theme of our relationship with animals. They listened well to the Creation story and were able to say how we should care for animals. There are very good links with the local church and clergy have given much thought on how to engage pupils of different ages in worship especially in the delivery of Bible stories. Thought has also gone into how the needs of gifted and talented pupils and those with special educational needs can be met in collective worship.

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

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher provide a very strong lead and have the ability to inspire, both being committed to promoting a distinctive Christian vision for the school. The Governors know the school very well and they work with staff in close partnership. The Chair of Governors, a member of the local clergy, attended a day with the staff on school development planning. Foundation governors say 'each child is an individual in the

collectiveness of the school'. The ethos of the school is shared, understood and very well supported by all members of the school community. Parents speak confidently that Christian values pervade school and that the Christian faith is very positively viewed by pupils 'I cannot see why children wouldn't embrace the Christian faith from coming to this school'. School and church links are continually developing. The school choir sings at the church fete and special services in church, such as the Christingle service, are advertised on the school notice board. The school welcomes suggestions and contributions from all members of the school community. Governor Evaluations report a strength of the school being the 'community and church links' and staff evaluations recognise collective worship as a strength of the school. The voice of children is consistently sought regarding all aspects of their learning. Within this school there is a strong team of caring people that provides a space for all the school community to flourish.

SIAS report October 27th 2008. Crigglestone St James CE VC Junior and Infant School, St James Way, Crigglestone, Wakefield, WF4 3HY.