



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Dryclough C.E. (Voluntary Controlled) Infant School
Dryclough Road, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, HD4 5HX
Diocese of Wakefield
Local Authority: Kirklees
S.I.A.S. Inspection: 6th March 2007
Date of last inspection: December 2001
School's unique reference number: 107729
Headteacher: Mrs B. Boryslawskij
S.I.A.S. Inspector: NS129 Mr. J.W. Bradley

School Context

Dryclough Infant School, which is larger than average with 294 pupils on roll, serves an area of much social disadvantage in this Huddersfield suburb. Seventy percent of the pupils come from minority ethnic groups and over fifty percent speak English as an additional language. The headteacher has been in post since September 2004.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Dryclough Infant School as a Church of England School are outstanding.

Dryclough Infant School is an outstanding school in so many ways. The enthusiasm, variety of experiences offered to children, parents and community and the commitment from staff, church and governors is exemplary. All of this is achieved within an atmosphere of Christian love for all and it is this, as an overriding aspect, which causes so much to be achieved for so many. Combined with this is professional skill which means individual children are understood and personally nurtured.

Established strengths

- The outstanding relationships created with pupils and parents.
- The understanding of staff, church and governors of how a Church of England School should effectively work in a multi-cultural, multi-faith setting.
- The support given to children within a setting of Christian love and support.

Focus for development

- To consider ways of using the Parish Church on a more regular basis, particularly for educational purposes.
- To ensure that matters with a Church School focus always form part of the School Improvement Plan.
- To fully implement the plans for enhancement of worship.

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

It is a distinctive Christian character, combined with real respect and consideration of those of other faiths and cultures which is the key to this school's success. It is also fundamental in driving forward improvements. The school's Mission statement, Ethos Statement and Aims all make explicit reference to the Christian context in which it operates and all of these are regularly re-visited by head, staff and governors to ensure continuity of vision. The school is extremely welcoming to all and it is a joy to witness the daily opening of the doors when children and parents are so warmly greeted by staff. Children clearly enjoy being at school and need little encouragement to say so. The building is full of interest for pupil and visitor alike and there are many references in the wide variety of displays to explicit Christian and other faiths, plus the values which are so much part of all of them. This Infant School has a Council which shows great interest both in its own school and the wider world as a result of involvement in charitable giving. They also know they are there to represent others. Care for others is such a prominent part of this school's ethos and this can be seen in a wide variety of ways. Children speak openly about the need to look after each other and the relationship they have with the adult staff is based upon mutual respect. Relationships with its church and parish result in much support for this school which plays such a vital role in this diverse community. Church members play a regular part in helping at and supporting the school.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective Worship at Dryclough is perceived as having crucial importance in the life and ethos of the school. An atmosphere of all worshipping and being together is created and this is enhanced by the number of adults present, both staff and visitors. The worship is well planned on a thematic basis and is regularly evaluated by pupils, staff and Foundation Governors. The role played by the Foundation Governors is a priority as they are very much involved in the regular action planning which takes place. Clergy are also part of the planning and discussions on the subject. Plans for the future development of school worship regarding audio visual systems are currently in place, and will enhance the experience and impact for pupils. The atmosphere at worship is well served by the use of music and candles to aid prayer and reflection and the children respond very well indeed to this part of the activity. Anglican aspects are well addressed in this multi faith school, both by the following of the church's year and use of liturgical colours on appropriate displays. The all pervading atmosphere, however, is that everyone is worthwhile and is loved by God and it is this sense of love which affects the whole of the school's life.

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

Head, staff, governors and church are all of one mind at this school. Everything that is done has the ethos and Mission Statement in mind and children come first. So do their varying and individual needs which are addressed in an atmosphere of inclusive Christian care. Foundation Governors are perceived as filling a vital role; they are carefully chosen and selected and it is ensured that their distinctive voice is heard on all sub-committees and working parties. This ensures that church school aspects are always taken into account, with the appropriate effects upon the whole school. There is a great deal of mutual respect evident between governors, senior staff and church and the result is a management system lacking in tension and where shared goals are the norm. Parents of many faiths and cultures understand that this is a Christian faith school and they appreciate and admire it for that. The taking into account of their views is another important facet of the management and leadership and this also engenders much respect. The sympathetic teaching of Religious Education which is designed to make good cross curricular links and links with other faiths is also perceived as an important management tool which affects ethos. This is an outstanding school, led by people of faith and the result is children who are happy in their school as they feel cared for, helped and loved.