



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Flockton Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School

Barnsley Road,
Flockton,
Wakefield,
WF4 4DH,
West Yorkshire

Diocese: Wakefield

Local authority: Kirklees
Dates of inspection: 1/11/07
Date of last inspection: 12th and 13th January 2004
School's unique reference number: 107714
Headteacher: Mrs Frances Swallow
Inspector's name and number: Denise Brogden 486

School context

Flockton CE Voluntary Controlled First School is a small village school situated in Flockton, on the Kirklees/Wakefield border. The community that the school serves has recently been extended with new executive housing being built in and around the village. There is also a large housing estate. A number of pupils come from nearby villages; however there is a growing trend of children coming from further a field, because of the schools reputation. The children's social and economic backgrounds are, therefore, very mixed. The school has recently been re-awarded Investors in People. In September 2007 the school was awarded Kirklees Healthy School Standard and National Healthy Schools Standard.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Flockton CE VC First School as a Church of England School are good

Flockton CE Voluntary Controlled First School is a good school that reflects its Christian Foundation well. Its values and aims are clearly rooted in a Christian tradition. The schools Vision statement 'Working together within a Christian environment to develop successful learners for life' confirms the belief that every person is special and created in God's image. Throughout school life there is a sense of responsibility for self and respect for each other.

Established strengths

- The positive ethos which is reflected in relationships across the school.
- The care and value for each individual in the school to reach their full potential.
- The excellent links between the school and the local church, St James Church.
- The commitment from the Head teacher in ensuring the Christian ethos permeates the whole of school life.

Focus for development

- Re-visit planning for Collective Worship to ensure recording and evaluation is more rigorous in order to focus on the impact on learners.
- To further develop links in contrasting contexts, in order to enhance further opportunities for learning about and from other Christian denominations, other faiths and cultures.

- Use self evaluation to strengthen the Governors role in monitoring and evaluating the schools provision and progress as a church school.

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

The school is very committed to the nurture and care of its pupils promoted through clear Christian principles. Pupils can articulate that they know they are part of a Church School because 'of the way we treat each other, we treat each other in the way we want to be treated ourselves'. Children have enormous trust in adults to support them and they recognise the important place that good behaviour has in their education. They said that staff 'cared a lot' for them. They are aware of what the staff school are doing to promote good behaviour so they can feel safe in school and are able to get on with their lessons. Pupils feel that the Buddies role helps them to feel settled into school. They recognise the care given by all members of the school community. Children enjoy many aspects of their school work, they say school is 'fun' and they are happy. They take their role as school councillors very seriously. They expressed the importance of visiting the local church for special events and at special times of the year and the place that the local clergy play in the life of the school. A garden of reflection and quiet room are places children can go to reflect. Parental views gathered recognise their children are well cared for and safe. Parents feel their children develop confidence and self-esteem.

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

Daily Collective Worship is important in the life of the school because it provides an affirming experience for pupils, staff and visitors. Pupils can articulate the key Christian values that the school promotes, especially that they feel cared for, unique, treated as individuals and that they have a responsibility to care for each other. Children clearly enjoy the opportunity to spend time as a whole school in Collective Worship with the chance to celebrate achievements and to spend time listening to stories, singing and reflecting. For the pupils, a key element of Collective Worship is the idea of being together; a time when this small school can gather altogether as one 'it makes you feel like you are one big family'. The School Council articulated that the schools Christian ethos is portrayed strongly in times of whole school worship when pupils can be still and spend time in prayer. Pupils enjoy many aspects of the Collective Worship time especially when they can participate with their own ideas and prayers. The behaviour of pupils is good and the School Council were able to say how behaviour could be improved in order to make Collective Worship even more a special time for quiet and reflection. There are excellent links with the local church through the clergy leading Collective Worship and joining in the very detailed planning of Worship opportunities. Some pupils expressed they would like more involvement from local clergy in Collective Worship time, both in leading Worship and also visiting Church to take part in Collective Worship. Class assemblies are well supported by parents.

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

A majority of stakeholders can speak confidently and accurately about the schools Christian vision which the Head teacher articulates well. The Christian vision is evident in public documentation. Parents feel that the school fosters a sense of community and caring between the children. Governors and staff work in close partnership. The ethos of the school is shared, understood and supported by all members of the school community. The role that the local clergy and the congregation of the local church play in their support of the school's Christian ethos is an important one, with members of the local church helping in school. Pupils contribute to the local church magazine. The Governors worked with school staff to re-establish the schools visions and aims. The school actively welcomes suggestions and contributions from all members of the school. There is a clear and strategic view about church school improvement based on evidence from the school self evaluation. The voice of children is consistently sought regarding all aspects of their learning. Within this school there is a small but strong team of caring people that provide a space for children to flourish as individuals.