



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Kirkby on Bain Church of England Primary School

Wharf Lane
Kirkby on Bain
Woodhall Spa
Lincolnshire
LN10 6YW

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire
Dates of inspection: 16 and 19 July 2012
Date of last inspection: 11 November 2008
School's unique reference number: 120623
Headteacher: Mr Simon Morley
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Jackie Sheldrake 255

School context

Kirkby on Bain is a smaller than average primary school serving the village of Kirkby on Bain and surrounding rural area. Almost all of the 95 pupils at this aided school are from white British backgrounds with a very small number coming from minority ethnic backgrounds. The headteacher has been in post since September 2010 following the death in post of the previous headteacher. There is no main hall.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Kirkby on Bain Primary as a Church of England school are good

This is a deeply caring school where individuals are valued for themselves and where Christian values guide and nurture all aspects of daily life and the aspirations of the school. The headteacher, governors and staff form a very effective and caring team. Pupils achieve well, grow in confidence and enjoy their time in school.

Established strengths

- The strong Christian ethos which pervades all areas of school life and that has an outstanding impact on learners.
- The commitment of the headteacher, governors and staff to further the influence of Christian values on the life of the school.
- The outstanding quality of relationships throughout the school which sustains a deeply caring ethos and enables all members of the school to thrive.
- Pupils' contribution to the life of the school and their understanding of the part they play in local, national and worldwide communities.

Focus for development

- Develop pupils' ability to plan, present and evaluate acts of collective worship and widen opportunities for pupils to experience input focussed on their age related needs.
- Realise the development plan to further the impact of Christian values on the school's Christian distinctiveness.
- In religious education ensure marking and feedback gives guidance to pupils of how they can develop the quality of their work in order to achieve to a higher level.

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

Kirkby on Bain is a happy, inclusive and deeply caring school where Christian values underpin all aspects of daily life. Through their interaction with pupils, each other and the wider school community the headteacher and his staff daily live out the values of the school. They provide pupils with excellent role models, promoting the outstanding quality of relationships seen throughout the school and successfully encourage pupils' growing understanding of the impact of the agreed core values. Pupils understand the importance of forgiveness and trust and they recognise the contribution made by staff and their peers to their well being. Behaviour is good and pupils are polite and helpful. They are seen to show respect for each other, for staff and the world around them. Pupils are encouraged to attain their very best in both personal and academic achievement and pupils of all abilities are seen to confidently contribute their ideas to class discussions. They speak of the way in which the school has 'Given me confidence and to never give up in all that I do' and 'Shown me how to come out of my shell and to be confident'. Pupils are proud of their school and proactive in many areas of its life. They speak with confidence of their involvement in the school council and the nature reserve group and of the many activities and improvements brought about by the work of these groups. Pupils spoke movingly of their involvement in carving the memorial sculpture in memory of their late headteacher, Mr Peter Douglas. Visitors, visits and after school clubs together with themed days and weeks enliven and enrich the curriculum and support the good level of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils speak confidently of the contributions they make to the life of the school and village community and of the need to support the wider localities of national and global communities. They are enthusiastic and generous with their time and labours. An example of this is the pupils' annual fundraising efforts to support their sponsorship of a Ugandan child. The school is well cared for and good use is made of the environment both within the school building and the grounds to inspire pupils and to provide areas for reflection and peace. Throughout the school Christian symbols and striking displays, often on a spiritual or moral theme, encourage reflection and discussion and celebrate the Christian ethos of the school. Parents value the approachability of staff and the provision of a happy and secure environment in which their children thrive. A number are glowing in their praise for the school, in particular noting the good provision made for children's individual needs and the 'rounded education with emphasis placed on Christian values'.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is highly valued and central to daily life in school. It is a time where pupils and staff, and at times parents, governors and members of the local community, come together in worship. It is seen as a time for those present to celebrate and give thanks and to share their understanding of the Christian values that guide and nurture the work of the school. The Leavers' Service attended made an outstanding impact on the spiritual development of those present. Held at St Mary's Church, as is the monthly community collective worship, this was both a joyous and deeply moving occasion celebrating not only the achievements of Year 6 pupils but also those of pupils from across the school. It was a time to give thanks for the work of the staff and the service of volunteers. All those present, pupils, staff, parents, governors and members of the local community showed great respect for the occasion and joined in whole heartedly through prayer, Bible readings, poetry and song. The strong impact of the occasion on those present is well illustrated by the opening moments when representative pupils from across the school together assembled the focal area with cloth, Cross, stone and candle. This simple act, with explanations by the headteacher, brought a hush to the congregation and established an atmosphere of reverence and reflection that continued throughout the service. Year 6 pupils spoke movingly of their time in school. Music enhanced the experience and enabled many pupils to shine. The Year 3/4 choir added much to the joyous occasion as did those talented musicians who played to a high level of musical accomplishment.

In school worship takes place in the Year 5/6 classroom. It is carefully planned with the support of all teaching staff and themes relate well to Christian values, the church year and pupils' daily life and experiences. Pupils confidently offer their own opinion, ideas and prayers to worship. They understand the purpose of prayer and regularly have the opportunity to join in with the saying of The Lord's Prayer and the school prayer. Pupils are involved in the delivery of worship through preparation of the setting, assisting with delivery and at times planning and presenting class worship in St Mary's Church. Governors are involved in monitoring through their occasional

attendance and staff through ongoing evaluation. Whilst pupils have the opportunity to make comment on their experiences the ability of collective worship to regularly meet the needs of all ages of pupils will be further enhanced by enabling pupils to have increased opportunity to plan and deliver worship and to evaluate its impact on those present.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Religious education (RE) enjoys status as a major area of the whole school curriculum. The subject is well led by a committed and knowledgeable subject leader and resourcing for teaching and learning is good. The planning framework ensures that pupils learn about and from Christianity and other major world faiths. It uses the Agreed Syllabus while also making links to cross curricular areas and collective worship. Multi faith days, visits to places of worship and visitors give life to the subject and enable pupils to gain firsthand experience of the impact of faith on peoples' daily lives. Across the school pupils show respect for the beliefs, life styles and views of others. Systems in place for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning recognise areas of strength and those needing further development. At present the development focus is on expanding the exploration of Christian values across the curriculum. Teachers demonstrate good subject knowledge. Teaching is good overall and at times outstanding. Where teaching is outstanding carefully posed questions capture and retain pupils' interest and extend learning. Achievement is good overall and systems in place ensure regular assessment and recording of progress. Marking, though positive, gives little guidance to pupils of how they might develop the quality of their work in order to achieve to a higher level. Pupils across the school were seen to enjoy RE. A Year 3/4 lesson exploring Christian values gave good illustration of this and of the way in which teachers successfully encourage pupils to work as individuals, with talking partners or as part of a larger group. Pupils are able to reflect on their experiences and communicate their understanding through a range of mediums to good effect. As when a pupil stated 'hope helps me to think that things will get better' and another pictured hope as 'a candle in the darkness'. RE makes a good contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

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

Since the last inspection the strength of the school community and the leadership of the headteacher and governors are witnessed through the support given and received following the sudden and untimely death of the previous headteacher. Leaders and managers have sought to sensitively value the achievements of the past while moving the school forward to face new challenges. The vision of leaders and managers to strengthen the impact of Christian values on the life of the school has received strong support from stakeholders. Pupils, parents, staff and governors speak of the importance of their recent collaboration in identifying a set of core values. Work on establishing a common understanding of hope, peace, friendship, forgiveness, respect and trust has begun. Leaders and managers, well supported by staff, are committed to ensuring that these Christian values are at the heart of all school policy and central to the life of the school. The headteacher and his staff exemplify the values of the school. They form a good team focussed on the needs of the pupils and effectively nurture the family atmosphere experienced throughout. Monitoring and evaluation of the work of the school as a church school is regular and involves observations, evaluations and reports by foundation governors and staff and questionnaires and reviews with the involvement of pupils and parents. Community cohesion is outstanding. The school has established outstanding relationships with parents and carers, the church and wider local communities. Pupils show pride and a real understanding of the importance placed on their contributions to the life of the school, the local community and to communities further afield. A welcoming ceremony in the cairn garden led by the school council gave good illustration of pupils' leadership role within the school. The close relationship with the church is sustained through a number of links with local clergy and parishioners. The church is regularly used for school plays, monthly community worship, and school services at times of major Christian festivals and school celebrations. Development areas highlighted in the previous denominational inspection have been addressed. The school receives good support from the diocesan education team.