



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Cuthbert's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

King Street
Pateley Bridge
Harrogate
HG3 5LE

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Diocese: West Yorkshire and the Dales

Local authority: North Yorkshire

Date of inspection: 24 November 2014

Date of last inspection: July 2010

School's unique reference number: 121549

Headteacher: June Brown

Inspector's name and number: Linda Hodson 314

School context

St Cuthbert's is a small school providing primary and nursery education in the town of Pateley Bridge in Nidderdale. The 96 pupils on roll are drawn from the town and surrounding rural area and include some from the nearby American airbase. Very few are from minority ethnic backgrounds. The proportion with special educational needs or disabilities is slightly higher than the national average and one in five receives pupil premium funding. The school works in collaboration with another small church school in Upper Nidderdale and its experienced headteacher leads both schools.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Cuthbert's as a Church of England school are good

- A strong focus on the needs of each individual child within an inclusive Christian community, fosters self-belief and results in outstanding achievement.
- Mutually supportive links with the local church and wider community enrich the school's religious education and its provision for collective worship.
- Pupils' cultural development is very well supported by the school's curriculum, ensuring a high degree of understanding of, and respect for diversity and difference.
- An exceptionally varied range of extra-curricular activities is provided, which support the development of individual strengths and talents.

Areas to improve

- Ensure that the school's distinctive Christian values are clearly expressed in worship and curriculum planning so that pupils can more readily identify how they affect their daily lives and achievements.
- Develop governors' skills in the evaluation of the school as a church school to ensure that they can appropriately challenge and support the school to improve further.

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

St Cuthbert's is a welcoming and inclusive school community in which each child is valued and supported as a unique individual. Its distinctive Christian character is reflected in its vision and aims and is lived out in its mission to provide each child with a valuable day, every day. Here, staff really do go the extra mile to provide a wide range of educational experiences to engage pupils and to foster their individual talents. This ensures that even reluctant learners are motivated to come to school and results in above average attendance. A culture of high expectations for all has resulted in improved academic achievement since the last inspection, with most pupils now making outstanding progress from their starting points. Careful planning by teachers, together with additional support, ensures that the needs of pupils who are disadvantaged or who have special educational needs are well met. Parents are full of praise for the way the school develops the self-confidence and self-esteem of these pupils. They liken the school to a 'big, happy family' where members show high levels of care and concern for each other. The impact of this is seen in the very positive and open relationships between all within the school community. The Christian principle of 'love your neighbour' underpins the school's rules and behaviour policy. Pupils explain that Jesus said we should treat others as we want to be treated and this is what they try to do. Politeness, good manners and co-operation are all effectively fostered in this way. Staff take seriously any concerns about unkindness or bullying that may arise and ensure these are quickly followed up and addressed. Observations during the inspection confirm that pupils' behaviour is consistently good, with much that is outstanding. The school's Christian ethos is reinforced through the curriculum and this has a good impact on pupils' social and moral development. Religious education (RE) is given high status within the school and makes a positive contribution to the school's distinctive Christian character. Units of work are well planned and support learning from religion as well as learning about religion. The positive impact on pupils' spiritual development is evidenced in their growing ability to pose and respond to 'big' questions. Cultural understanding is very effectively developed through RE and the wider curriculum and is enhanced through well-established links with schools in Bradford and Kenya. Pupils therefore have a very good understanding of diversity and difference. Staff are currently reviewing provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, as they develop and implement the school's new curriculum. Leaders acknowledge the need to develop a shared understanding of spirituality and a more explicit expression of the school's distinctive Christian values within the curriculum framework.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

At St Cuthbert's, collective worship is given high status and is an enjoyable and engaging activity for all who attend. Pupils regularly experience different elements of worship such as celebration, praise, silence and symbolism and respond to them appropriately. They show their enthusiasm and joy through their acting, singing and music making, but, equally, demonstrate thoughtfulness and reverence during times of prayer and reflection. Pupils are very confident in offering spontaneous prayers and routinely make use of the reflection areas in school to write their own prayers. This has a positive impact on their spiritual development. Leaders ensure that acts of worship are distinctively Christian, with strong emphasis being given to Bible teachings. However, they fully recognise the diversity of beliefs and viewpoints within the school community and take care to ensure that collective worship is fully accessible and inclusive. A strength of the school's provision is the variety of leadership, with staff, pupils, the vicar and members of the local church community all making regular contributions. The lively approach taken by the 'Open the Book' team is enjoyed by all and supports a good recall of Bible stories. Pupils are routinely asked to reflect on the key messages within the stories and to think what they might do in response. In this way the links between the school's rules and values and the teachings of Jesus Christ are reinforced. Parents are appreciative of the moral

guidance this provides, saying that pupils quickly learn right from wrong and show genuine care and concern for others. The latter is routinely demonstrated in pupils' efforts to raise funds for local and national charities. The vicar is a regular visitor to the school and leads worship each Wednesday. His input, together with the celebration of major Christian festivals in St Cuthbert's Church, effectively supports understanding of Anglican traditions and practices. By the time pupils leave the school they have a good understanding of the importance of Jesus Christ in worship and some knowledge of the Trinity. Leadership of worship is good, with individual acts of worship being well planned. However, the planning overview currently lacks an explicit focus on Christian values, which limits continuity and progression in the way pupils encounter these. Pupils contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of worship via the worship committee. They report their findings to governors and are proud of the impact they have had in developing worship within the school. Governors have ensured that the areas for development from the last inspection have been addressed. They monitor worship each half-term but do not routinely record evidence of its impact.

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

The high aspirations of the headteacher and the clear vision of governors to provide high quality education, within a distinctively Christian setting, has resulted in clear improvements in the quality of teaching and learning. This, together with a culture of high expectations for all, has ensured that academic standards have risen over time. Performance data confirms that most pupils now make good to outstanding progress across the school and leave with attainment well above the national average. Parents speak highly of the school and feel that they are genuine partners in their children's education. They particularly value the high standard of care provided, which results in pupils feeling safe and happy in school. They also recognise that well-embedded provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, ensures that all develop as confident, well-rounded learners who demonstrate concern for others and the world they live in. The school makes very good use of the opportunities within the locality to strengthen its curriculum and routinely participates in community events. As a flagship school for music, the school is often represented by the choir or school band. Mutually supportive links with the local parish make a very effective contribution to the development of the school's distinctive Christian character, and particularly to the quality of collective worship. Pupils' understanding of the role of the diocese is enhanced through experiences such as the visit of the Bishop and participation in activities celebrating the creation of the new diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales. Governors ensure that statutory obligations are fulfilled and have a strong commitment to the continuing professional development of staff. The school's recent collaboration with another small church school provides development opportunities for leaders at all levels and supports the sharing of best practice. Governors are very effective in their monitoring and evaluation of the school's overall effectiveness, but have not applied the same rigour to their evaluation of the school as a church school. They acknowledge the need for training and development in this area so that they can effectively challenge and support the school's continued development as a church school.

SIAMS report November 2014 St Cuthbert's CE (VC) Primary School, Pateley Bridge HG3 5LE