



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Roughlee Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Blacko Bar Road Roughlee
Nelson Lancashire
BB9 6NX

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 25 June 2015

Date of last inspection: 25 May 2010

School's unique reference number: 119383

Headteacher: Carolyn Potts

Inspector's name and number: Paul Adnitt 590

School context

The school is much smaller than the average sized primary school with 37 pupils currently on roll. Pupils are taught in two classes, one comprising Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils and the other Key Stage 2 pupils. The large majority of pupils are from White British backgrounds. Currently 11% of pupils are on the school's SEN register.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Roughlee C E. Primary School as a Church of England school are good

- The school's distinctive Christian ethos, including the high quality of care provided for each pupil, has a significant impact on all aspects of school life. This is evidenced in the loving relationships and good behaviour of all pupils.
- The relationships with St Mary's church, St John's Methodist church and the local community are excellent and make a positive Christian impact within the school community
- The headteacher provides strong Christian leadership. She ensures that the school's Christian character constantly makes a difference to the pupils' academic achievement, spiritual development and well-being.
- Effective monitoring and evaluation by all stakeholders result in well planned provision to promote the school's Christian distinctiveness.

Areas to improve

- Involve more pupils in planning and leading worship in order to deepen their spiritual awareness and understanding of worship and prayer.
- Provide further and varied opportunities for pupils to gain a good appreciation of other world faiths. This will enable pupils to understand and make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of other faiths and cultures studied.

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

The school's Christian character nourishes, encourages and challenges the spiritual and cultural development of the whole community. Christian values are made explicit and are deeply rooted in the Christian distinctiveness of the school. The staff and pupils demonstrate these core gospel values by example in the daily life of the school. The quality of relationships between all members of the school community is excellent. This exemplification of core values, together with the emphasis on caring for others, makes an exceptional contribution to the pupils' social and moral development. The behaviour of all pupils is exemplary. They feel safe, special, valued and loved by staff. As a consequence their attitudes to learning are very positive. The pupils are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. They know the importance of the school's Christian values and explain their impact in their lives and the life of the school. The distinctive Christian character of the school has a positive impact on the academic standards and progress achieved by the end of Key Stage 2 and on the pupils' excellent personal and social development. All pupils, including disabled pupils and those with special needs make good progress throughout school. Older pupils are excellent role models for their younger peers so that from an early age pupils learn how to value each other and their surroundings. Parents are very positive about the impact of the school's Christian ethos. One parent remarked, 'The school has a nurturing, Christian environment which builds confidence and allows the children to grow. We are part of a big family.' Interactive worship and religious education (RE) displays, in classrooms and central areas, engage pupils and promote prayer, reflection and spirituality. They are a constant reminder that the school is a place where faith is nurtured. The school's links with PAIS, a Christian group of international students, and Capenwray College, ensure pupils have a growing understanding and awareness of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith. Their knowledge and experience of other faith communities is limited. High quality RE teaching contributes well to pupils' spiritual development and the Christian character of the school. They say it is interesting and important to them and the life of the school because, 'RE helps us to understand Jesus and how to live better with other people.'

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship reflects the school's distinctive Christian character and is at the heart of school life. Daily acts of worship enhance the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Bible, the Christian faith and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pupils are confident when discussing their faith and demonstrate a growing spiritual maturity. They enjoy worship, display positive attitudes to it and participate well. Worship is a valuable experience for all pupils and it has a positive impact on their spiritual development and on their daily lives. One pupil commented, 'We get to tell God a big thank you for our lives. It's a really good time.' Good planning ensures that there is both variety and continuity and that themes are rooted in Christian beliefs. A range of members from the wider school community contribute to planning. This in turn identifies where improvement is needed and informs future planning. The vicar visits regularly. He is well liked by the pupils who clearly value his part in school life. One pupil said, 'He knows that we need to know about God. We can then tell others about Jesus, including our children when we have our own. It's important.' Pupils enjoy contributing to worship and are increasingly taking responsibility for readings and prayers and helping to lead class worship. Although pupils have some opportunities to lead worship they say that they would like to be able to plan and lead school worship on a regular basis. There are times set aside for quiet personal reflection and prayer, both in formal and informal contexts. This has a very positive impact on pupils' good spiritual and moral development. One pupil remarked, 'I like the quiet times. It's a good reflection time for adults too.' Many make use of prayer in their own lives and contribute prayers to school worship. Worship enables pupils to recognise their responsibilities to others and to reflect on community and personal values. This is evidenced in pupils' involvement in charitable work and local and national fundraising activities for Burnley Hospice, UNICEF and the local Burnley foodbank.

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

The headteacher's personal Christian values permeate the life of the school. She has a strong and clear Christian vision for the school and is well supported in this by the governing body. The evaluation of the school as a church school is accurate and thorough. This process involves representation from across the school community but parents, pupils and the church are not yet more fully engaged. Governors have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation. They are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities and make a valuable contribution to school leadership and Christian vision. The leadership of the school ensures that the school's Christian values and ethos are at the forefront of all new initiatives. It also ensures that appropriate support, encouragement and challenge are given to the RE and worship co-ordinator. She is very effective in providing a well-planned and stimulating curriculum which enriches the Christian ethos and distinctiveness of the school. The school benefits from Diocesan training and continuing professional development for all staff and governors. This contributes to high standards of teaching and learning in RE. Pupils' views are taken seriously and they have a role in the decision making process of the school. However they are not engaged on all aspects of the school as a church school. The school has very strong links with the local parish church, the Methodist church and the local community. The school has been awarded the 'Church School Distinctiveness Award for Salt and Light,' which recognises the school's work in the community. This involvement in village events and in the wider Pendle community help pupils understand the involvement of church and school in the community

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