

Newland St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Beresford Avenue
Beverley Road
Hull
HU6 7LS

Diocese: York

Local authority: Kingston upon Hull
Dates of inspection: 6th July 2009
Date of last inspection: 13th July 2006
School's unique reference number: 118031
Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Robinson
Inspector's name and number: Mrs C A Roberts 469

School context

Newland St John's Primary is an average sized school of 193 pupils. Whilst some pupils are drawn from the local vicinity other pupils travel from up to five miles away. The proportion of children receiving free school meals is above average. Most pupils are of White British backgrounds. Around six percent are from European, African or Asian heritage and many of these are learning English as an additional language. There are a higher number than average of pupils with statements of special educational needs.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Newland St John's as a Church of England school are outstanding

Newland St John's is a truly outstanding distinctive church school, where Christian values are lived out on a daily basis. Consequently the care and development of children is at the heart of the schools mission that states 'a school where every child really does matter'. Pupils achieve their potential due to the Christian love and nurture received from all staff. Relationships are exemplary and adults provide excellent role models for pupils. Links with the church community are strong. All stakeholders firmly support and promote the Christian character of the school.

Established strengths

- The outstanding leadership of a dedicated and committed headteacher whose Christian values support her vision for the school.
- The outstanding relationships within the school contribute to the extended family feeling within the school environment ensuring that pupils feel safe and secure.
- The importance afforded to church school distinctiveness.
- The strong links with the church.

Focus for development

- Develop interactive reflection areas linked to displays on Christian values.

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

Christian values permeate every aspect of Newland St John's school, enabling pupils to feel safe, secure and work to their true potential. The Christian mission and aims of the school are lived out explicitly and tirelessly by all staff, who are exemplary role models for pupils to copy. As one governor mentioned 'the Christian Spirit can be felt and seen throughout the school'. Relationships are excellent and pupils say that the best thing about school is the teachers who ensure they are treated fairly and respectfully. Displays promote Christian values, for example, the value 'hope' is exemplified in all areas of school, linked to pupils' work and reflections. One pupil wrote 'my hope is that all children will be cared for by everyone'. Although all classrooms have Christian focus areas with Bibles and Christian artefacts, pupils would benefit from interactive displays linked to Christian values. All stakeholders speak of

Comment: This may read better as
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how the adults in school really do care for the pupils and give them hope for the future. Pupils in turn show their care for one another by being part of the friendship squad. This ensures that no child is left out of play or feels lonely. The outstanding Christian ethos supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils and adults, with several families becoming Christians as a result of the ethos in school. The school is highly effective at developing the whole child and the quality of provision to support their spiritual development is outstanding.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship has a central place in the life of the school. It is seen by everyone as a vitally important time where the presence of God through Jesus is acknowledged throughout. Themes based on explicit Christian values form the basis for worship and these are linked to classroom work, enabling pupils to understand that belief and worship are not isolated. Pupils recognise the importance of worship in a church school and link it to the way they behave. For example, one pupil recalled how the account of the Good Samaritan enabled him to remember that he had to 'be nice to everyone, even people I don't really like'. Regular input from the vicar and church youth and family workers helps to strengthen the impact of worship, promote effective links with church and also develop understanding of the Anglican dimension. The impact of worship on pupil's spiritual, moral, and social development is excellent. For example, one pupil stated how 'worship makes me feel very special, particularly when everyone prays for me on my birthday and sings the special birthday song'. Attitudes to worship are exemplary, with pupils keen to participate, plan and lead worship. A range of monitoring and evaluation are undertaken by a variety of people including governors and pupils. These inform on going discussion to ensure worship is of the highest quality and impact.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

The RE coordinator is an extremely dedicated, approachable and effective leader. Schemes of work are interesting and exciting for learners. Teachers' knowledge is very good and there are very effective processes in place for planning and assessment. Pupils have good opportunities to participate and express their views. For example in Key Stage 2, pupils discuss their ideas and opinions on whether believers need a place of worship as opposed to worshipping anywhere. Lessons are challenging and focus equally on 'learning from religion' and 'learning about religion'. All pupils have opportunity to visit places of worship, for example Key Stage 1 pupils visit the local church to undertake a trail looking for special features and objects. Standards in RE are excellent with most pupils achieving above the diocesan syllabus expectations. Pupils achieve the same or better than other core subjects. Monitoring and evaluation of RE is rigorous ensuring that development and improvement constantly take place. Virtually all learners enjoy RE and recognize its value to them now and in future. The school has successfully addressed the issue from the previous inspection and ensured that thematic links with PSHCE and other subjects take place.

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

The committed leadership of the headteacher, and her clear Christian vision enables the school community to work well together, to develop and promote its distinctive Christian character. She enables a hardworking staff team to flourish, whilst building close partnerships with governors and the local church community, who fully support the school's mission and aims. This has an excellent impact on all areas of school life and the community. Monitoring and evaluation of the school as a church school has been accurately and rigorously undertaken via the SIAS toolkit and is well linked to school improvement planning. All governors are involved with the process and are thoroughly supportive and indeed proud of the Christian vision for the school and how this impacts on everyone. Parents are similarly pleased and proud, with one parent stating that 'Jesus is the centre of everything and the Christian ethos is the reason for the excellent impact on everything'. Communications to parents always contain evidence of the distinctive Christian character of the school, for example through a prayer or a Bible quote. Links with the church are not only extremely strong but are seen as crucial to the mission of the school. Pupils state 'the church is not only in the school, but the school is in the church'.

