



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Holy Trinity Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School

Church Lane
Ripon
North Yorkshire
HG4 2ES

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: West Yorkshire and The Dales

Local authority: North Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 7 December 2015

Date of last inspection: 17 May 2007

School's unique reference number: 121582

Headteacher: P Bowlas

Inspector's name and number: R A Bateman 788

School context

Holy Trinity Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School is an average sized school located near to the centre of Ripon. Most pupils are white British. A significant number of children come from military families which contributes to the high pupil mobility. The number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium due to disadvantage is below the national average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Holy Trinity VC Junior School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- The Christian values, understood by all stakeholders underpin the policies and practice in the school.
- The inclusive acts of worship contribute to the development of both pupil's and staff's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding.
- The high quality of behaviour and relationships practiced by all members of the school family.

Areas to improve

- Increase the opportunities for children's participation in the planning, delivery and evaluation of collective worship.
- Implement and embed a system of evaluation for RE in-line with the effective developments used for other curriculum areas.
- Improve links with a multi-faith school from a contrasting area in order to appreciate their similarities and differences.

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

This school is proud of its Christian values and these are clearly evident in school policies, information literature and the stimulating and thought provoking displays around school. These core Christian values, which underpin the life and work of the school, are clearly stated in the mission statement. Both children and adults, including parents and governors, could articulate the meaning and importance of the school's Respect Code which is reflected in the outstanding behaviour of pupils and the effective high quality relationships between all stakeholders. Children could articulate clearly both the values that underpin the life of this school and what that looks like in practice. Children speak openly about the Christian values of forgiveness and friendship when talking about how any playground disputes are resolved. Their understanding of the values of truthfulness and forgiveness, results in excellent behaviour which is evident throughout the school. Attainment for all groups in school, including those in receipt of pupil premium, is rising and is above both local and national average. Pupils talk enthusiastically about interesting lessons and caring teachers who make learning fun and exciting. Pupil's attitude to their learning is excellent. The school has numerous well attended extracurricular clubs ranging from the 'normal' sports to fly fishing. Parents praised the work of the school and the support given to all pupils, including those from military families. Many pupils and their families benefit from the excellent support provided the 'Service Pupil's Champion'. Both pupils and parents referred to the charity work completed by the school, often supporting charities suggested by pupils reflecting the school's values of hope and responsibility. The school benefits from close links with Holy Trinity Church. The church is used by the school for major Christian festivals and celebrations which the pupils enjoy. Pupils and staff commented on the awe and wonder that was created in these services and said that church 'was a special place'. Holy Trinity Church also provide an important breakfast club three times per week supporting the school's values of service to their community and koinonia. The school has links with a school in a contrasting area of the diocese allowing pupils to have first hand experience of learning about and from another world faith tradition and its practices but this is not embedded throughout the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is held daily and is a focal point for the whole school community. Pupils enter worship respectfully and during the whole school worship observed it was clear that they enjoy attending. They participate well and sing with enthusiasm. The headteacher led worship with children fully engaged throughout. There is good use made of ICT to capture and retain pupils' attention. The closing inclusive signed prayer

was very moving with all pupils participating. When questioned pupils said that, 'all our worship is like that' and 'we sign our prayer so that all the school is included because we are all important'. The quiet reverence experienced in worship set the tone for pupil's behaviour throughout the day. A range of people lead worship including the headteacher, staff, vicar, and members of other local Christian denominations, with whom the school has developed strong beneficial links. The whole school community is influenced positively by worship and some staff members commented how they are spiritually uplifted by attending. Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship, which was previously carried out by members of the school leadership team, have now been given to a member of staff. This distribution of responsibility has further strengthened the capacity of the school to ensure its distinctive Christian character. The school has an innovative system of allowing pupils to have responsibility and involving pupils in decision making. The worship team, consisting of pupils from each year group and ably led by a member of staff is in its infancy. It is developing its role in leading and evaluating worship. Pupils are enthusiastic and are aware of the importance of worship to their school. House prayers, written by the four individual school houses, show a deep spiritual understanding and are all based around the school values of hope, responsibility and respect. The impact of collective worship is greatly enhanced by the class quiet reflective areas where children are encouraged to think and the emphasis on prayer across the whole school is evident from the prominent space this has in each classroom. Pupils use these areas for quiet reflection and are encouraged to write prayers either on a theme or topical issue. One pupil said, 'You can use the prayer box any time' Pupils spoke confidently about the significance of prayer. Children knew the three parts of the Trinity and were confident talking about the Christian festivals, celebrations and traditions. Year 4 had recently studied the Holy Communion, which involved the Assistant Curate, a regular visitor to school. Many children attend the Bethel Church junior church club, enhancing the school's links with the wider Christian community.

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

The school is led by an inspirational headteacher who has a firm understanding of the values and vision which are the strong foundation of this school. The headteacher has developed an effective distributed system of leadership empowering staff to be future leaders. Governors are well informed about pupil progress and achievement. They know the strengths of this school and what areas need further development. They are effective in their role of offering pastoral support to the headteacher and acting as a critical friend. The effective working relationship between the Headteacher and the school governors has enabled the weekly meeting between the chair of governors and the head to be productive in discussing important issues such as the loss of levels in assessment. All staff are encouraged to take part in bespoke professional development enabling them to make a positive impact on the current pupils and their own professional lives. This school is a strategic partner in the North Star Teaching School Alliance and through its outreach work and commitment to service to others is positively influencing other schools in the area. Parents are an integral part of the school family and their voice is listened to. They supported the 'parent voice group' There is effective curriculum planning and lessons are interesting and stimulating. The introduction of the 'developing a growth mind-set' approach to teaching has contributed significantly to pupils developing a very positive

attitude to work and many make better than expected progress. There is detailed planning for Religious Education and progress is carefully monitored resulting in an effective development plan which has resulted in RE making a significant contribution to the curriculum and effectiveness of this school. Very effective use of additional income is made in supporting vulnerable pupils and providing high quality sports activities, in association with a local high school and sports leaders in school. The headteacher has appointed a member of staff to monitor and evaluate progress against SIAMS criteria. The current evaluation is detailed and has led to a carefully structured action plan which has resulted in both the reinforcement of the Christian values underpinning the work of this school and the increase in leadership capacity to ensure that those values are lived out by the whole school community each day.

The school works closely and effectively with other schools within the diocese contributing to many celebrations in Ripon Cathedral such as the annual service for service children, celebration of 'Ripon Community Link' and Year 6 leaver's service. Other diocesan or church school events are held in Holy Trinity Church and have included Carol, Harvest and Easter services. Parents spoke with pride of the school's involvement at the annual remembrance service held in the Spa Gardens and how moving this was because of the pupils' reverence and respect reflecting the Christian values supported by the school.

The school, with the active support of the governors, hosts a local carers charity which enhances its already strong links with the community and neighbouring churches. This activity supports the school and governors Christian values of compassion and friendship.

SIAMS report December 2015 Holy Trinity Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School, Ripon, HG4 2ES