



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Kilham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Millside
Kilham,
Driffield
YO25 4SR

Diocese: York

Local authority: East Riding of Yorkshire
Date of inspection: 10 October 2014
Date of last inspection: September 2010
School's unique reference number: 117980
Headteacher: Simon England
Inspector's name and number: Alan Thornsby 137

School context

Kilham is a small school with 126 pupils from the village of Kilham and the surrounding area. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage and many are from outside the catchment area. Since the previous inspection, there have been significant changes in both staffing and governance.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Kilham as a Church of England school are good

- The passionate leadership of the headteacher, supported by governors and staff, in creating a school with a distinctive Christian character.
- The impact of the distinctive Christian ethos on the academic and personal development of all children.
- The close links with the church and input of the vicar that enhance the worship of the school and local community.

Areas to improve

- Building on the secure current foundations, explore and express the Christian character and school values in more explicit Christian terms.
- Ensure that pupils plan and deliver worship on a more regular basis, to extend their understanding of worship and spiritual journey.
- Increase the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship by the formal involvement of foundation governors, pupils, staff and parents

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

The school has a caring and welcoming ethos that has evolved through discussion and review into the statement 'Learning, Caring and Friendship.' This is securely underpinned by Christian values that are beginning to be more explicitly expressed throughout school. There is an atmosphere of calm, quiet and purposeful learning. This reflects the quality of relationships between all members of the school community. Children are confident, well behaved and happy. They know that each of them is valued as a unique individual. Attendance is good because pupils feel safe and have a sense of enjoyment in their learning. Teachers have high expectations for themselves and pupils. Christian love and the desire for each child to achieve their potential underpin the effective teaching and learning strategies of the school. Through challenge and support, adults nurture the natural curiosity of children. Recent data indicates that pupil achievement is good and exceeds national expectations. Pupils understand the distinctive Christian character of the school, relating it to learning from the life and parables of Jesus. For example, they describe the importance of respect in school as being 'to make sure that no-one is left out and is looked after'. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development is enriched by the broad curriculum, well planned use of the extensive school grounds and the range of out of school activities. Religious education (RE) has a high profile in the life of the school, with children making increasing use of religious vocabulary and links across curriculum areas. They have a good understanding of the differences between religious education and worship. This informs their developing awareness of the global nature of major world faiths

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is an important aspect of the distinctive Christian character of the school. A cycle of well-planned themes based on 'Values for Life', the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and the church year reflect the values of the school. Pupils experience a range of leaders and formats throughout the week. They have a good understanding of how themes impact on everyday life, making links between worship and learning about and from religion. Pupils recognise worship helps them learn about Jesus and how to live with his example. They have a good knowledge of the church year as well as events in the life of Jesus. They are developing a good understanding of the Trinity, explaining 'it is like the three sides of a triangle with God the creator, God the son in Jesus and the Holy Spirit that cannot be seen or touched but we can see it in action.' They can also describe the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Jesus' disciples that 'we remember at Pentecost. Pupils show their awareness of worship as a special time by creating a reverent atmosphere. They are engaged by the enthusiasm of the worship leader. Adults and children recognise the importance of worship and the impact on their lives by the lighting of a candle and the greeting 'the light of the world' responding 'the light darkness cannot put out.' They recognise that Bible stories and the teaching of Jesus help to treat people as you wish them to treat you. Children understand the purpose of prayer recognising 'to say thank you, sorry or to praise God'. They also explain that 'God hears but we may not recognise his answer.' The school has good links with the church, with music lessons held here, resulting in children singing in church services. The vicar regularly leads worship in school. The church is used for festival services that are well attended by parents and the community. This also includes a Starters service, led by older pupils to welcome new children and the Leavers service when pupils are presented with a Bible. Such experiences are to be nurtured as part of pupils' understanding about worship and their own spiritual journey. An end of week assembly gives parents and pupils the opportunity to celebrate academic and personal achievement and finish the week in a high note. Although there are procedures to monitor the impact of worship, the school has identified the need to introduce more formal procedures involving pupils, governors and parents.

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

Since the last inspection the school, with support from the diocese has revisited and refined its Christian character and ethos. It has been addressing the development points from the previous inspection. Discussion between staff, governors and pupils has produced clear aims as a church school 'to provide the best possible quality of education and high expectations and achievement within a set of Christian values.' This is securely underpinned by Christian values that are beginning to be made more explicit in the life of the school, in displays and documents. The head is passionate about fully developing the Christian character of the school and with a secure staff team and challenge and support from governors, is ensuring achievement is raised. Staff, supported by curriculum, professional development and leadership opportunities are very aware of the distinctive Christian character of the school. They are also very aware of the impact of this on their well being, commenting 'the ethos naturally creates positive messages and creates a team that ensures all children progress. It is a joy to come to work.' Foundation governors are regular visitors in school and through observations, formal and informal meetings have a good understanding of the distinctive character of the school. This includes the high profiles of RE and worship and its links with church. There is a continual focus on rigorous cycles of review and action planning. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) is a standing agenda item at governors meetings. This ensures that all are aware of the development of the distinctive character of the school and its impact on the academic and personal lives of pupils. The school improvement plan identifies a number of church school action plans to further the distinctive Christian character. Parents recognise the family feel of school, commenting 'all teachers know and care for all of our children. They go over and above in building memories.' They acknowledge their children want to come to school where there is mutual support, respect and recognition of each other's talents. The school enjoys an active Parent Teacher Association, involved in a range of social and fund raising activities. These include 'Santa Sunday' when children visit each house in the village to share Christmas greetings accompanied by Santa, before carols round the Christmas tree and mince pies in the village hall. This fully reflects the comment, 'We are a church school in our community'

SIAMS report October 2014 Kilham VC YO25 4SR