

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Hesketh with Becconsall All Saints Church of England Primary School

Shore Road
Hesketh Bank
Preston
PR4 6RD

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Lancashire
Dates of inspection: 1st February 2013
Date of last inspection: 13th July 2010
School's unique reference number: 119566
Headteacher: Mr Lawrence Smye-Rumsby
Inspector's name and number: Paul Adnitt 590

School context

The school is a smaller than average primary school with currently 189 pupils on roll. It serves a semi-rural area comprising private housing, farms and market gardens. The majority of pupils are white British, although there are several children from Poland and Eastern Europe. Currently the percentage of pupils with special educational needs is well below the local authority average. At the present time the number of pupils taking free school meals is also well below the authority average.

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

The school provides a good and supportive Christian environment which contributes well to pupil's spiritual and moral development. The quality of worship is outstanding and has a significant impact on pupils' personal and spiritual development. Pupils are happy and care for each other. The school has made significant progress since its last inspection and the leadership team of the school are determined to continue this positive trend.

Established strengths

- The strong Christian leadership of the headteacher, who is well supported by staff and governors
- The school is a welcoming Christian community where all pupils and staff are valued and nurtured
- The planning and evaluation of religious education and worship which is effective and consistent
- The positive Christian environment for learning which enhances pupils' expectations and contributes positively to their growing spiritual development
- The consistently high quality of worship which makes a significant impact on the life of the school

Focus for development

- Involve all governors and staff fully in developing the process of evaluating Hesketh with Becconsall as an effective church school
- Ensure that parents are aware of what makes the school distinctly Christian and that they understand the impact of the Christian ethos on pupils' spiritual development

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

The school's effective Christian ethos enables and encourages the strong partnership that exists between pupils, staff, parents, the church and the wider community. This ethos is characterised by the pupils' good behaviour and the Christian care that exists within and between all members of the school family. Pupils get on well together and feel part of a

functional Christian family. The quality of relationships between all members of the school community is good which, together with the emphasis on caring for others, makes a strong contribution to the pupils' social and moral development. Strong emphasis is placed on moral development clearly based on Christian values. Pupils show respect, acceptance and understanding of others. Pupils have positive attitudes to learning and are happy, encouraged and supported in school. Pupils feel valued and special. They are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. One girl, a member of the school council remarked, 'In this school everyone cares about each other, there's always someone to talk to'. Feedback from pupils and parents is overwhelmingly positive. Parents value the school highly. One parent commented, 'The children show respect for each other, they listen to each other. It has a friendly, caring and nurturing atmosphere'. Each classroom has RE learning trees/corners and prayer boxes where children are encouraged to reflect on their thinking and relationship with others and their creator. Christian displays around school are good and contribute to pupils' spiritual awareness. Children enjoy achieving and learning, and they take an active part in celebrating achievements in class and in worship. The school is active in supporting charities. Pupils initiate, organise and run fund-raising events and days to provide for others. Recent examples of recipients include NSPCC and BBC Sports Relief.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship occupies a vital part of the school day and acts of worship are extremely well planned and evaluated. Worship takes place in a variety of styles, groupings and locations to ensure that the Christian message is understandable to all pupils. Worship involves high levels of participation and very positive responses from all attending. Pupils reflect in depth and are highly enthusiastic about collective worship. They are encouraged to participate in worship through answering questions and reading prayers. Through drama are able to reflect on the importance of worship in their lives. When asked about why worship is special one pupil commented, 'It gives us time to reflect on why we should believe in God. It reminds us of God's love'. They sing with enthusiasm. Pupils are able to consider how the Christian values and messages contained in the stories from the Bible relate to their own life experiences and understanding. One pupil remarked, 'The Bible tells us how Jesus changed people's lives for the better and how what Jesus taught carries on to this day'. There are opportunities for prayer and periods of reflection in daily collective worship. Through worship pupils express their feelings and personal spiritual needs. There is a weekly input from the parish clergy and regular visits from other visiting clergy, including other denominations. A large wooden cross and a portable altar provide focal points for the daily worship. Through inspiring displays and the imaginative use of its beautiful grounds the school environment greatly enhances the spiritual awareness and development of all pupils. Worship is at the heart of the school's current school improvement plan.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

The school uses the Blackburn Diocesan syllabus for RE. A variety of skills are encouraged through the delivery of the RE curriculum. Assessment shows that results are broadly similar to those in core subjects. Progress in RE is good. Teachers regularly assess learning and they modify planning accordingly. Teachers use a range of styles to deliver RE in a way which is inclusive for all learners. Pupils are encouraged to self assess their work using the same assessment system employed in other core subjects. Pupils are actively encouraged and supported in reflecting on their learning in RE which has a positive effect on pupils' spiritual development. The lessons seen were judged to be good or better. Pupils participate and respond with enthusiasm. They find it interesting and are keen to discuss and reflect on the subject. Their views are taken into account when planning units of work. Pupils feel comfortable in expressing their beliefs and in discussing the beliefs of others; they have a growing understanding of the Christian faith. Pupils enjoy RE and behaviour is good in lessons. Pupils are confident and talk openly about their beliefs and points of view. One pupil, a member of the school council remarked, 'Jesus died on the cross to forgive us our sins. He died on the cross and he forgave them so we should forgive too'. There is an action plan for RE which is incorporated into the school improvement plan. Time is given in staff meetings to review assessment procedures and to address areas for development.

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

The headteacher leads by example and his personal Christian values permeate the life of the school. The ethos is calm, happy and purposeful. He has a strong Christian vision for the school and he is well supported in this by the governing body. There are effective monitoring and evaluation processes in place for its self evaluation as a church school, which is linked well to school improvement planning. Church school evaluation should now be shared with all members of the school family in order to involve them fully in improving this church school further. The headteacher is well supported by the governing body who are committed to working to improve the school. The governors are rightly proud of their school. Virtually all parents, pupils and other members of the school community speak positively of the way in which the school seeks and values their views. Parents' views are sought on a regular basis and pupils feel comfortable in expressing their opinions and suggestions. Senior staff have undertaken relevant training. Links between school and All Saints church are strong and growing stronger, and the new self supporting minister is a regular visitor to school. Pupils say they value his visits. 'He is part of the heart of the school', remarked one pupil. Both diocesan, local and global connections are strong, particularly the links with a catholic school in Nelson and the Karl Johan school in Sweden. The headteacher and the teachers, alongside the governors, have a vision for future school priorities linked to church school distinctiveness.

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