



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

East Ravendale Church of England Primary School

East Ravendale
Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
DN37 0RX

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: North East Lincolnshire
Dates of inspection: 12 September 2012
Date of last inspection: 22 May 2009
School's unique reference number: 137811
Headteacher: Mrs. Allie Majer
Inspector's name and number: Judith Dickin 439

School context

East Ravendale Church of England Primary School is a small school with 113 pupils on roll. Few pupils live in East Ravendale, 60% travel in from surrounding villages. The proportion of pupils supported at school action plus or with a statement of special educational needs is above average. The school became an academy on January 1 2012 and is part of the Athena Alliance, a group of eight primary schools.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of East Ravendale Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

A dynamic Christian ethos is at the heart of this vibrant learning community in which pupils are encouraged to be the best they can be. The school's logo 'Where little stars shine' promotes self-belief and positive attitudes to learning. Relationships are excellent and contribute significantly to what is a warm and welcoming environment in which spiritual development is nurtured.

Established strengths

- Outstanding and inspirational leadership ensures a shared vision for this Church school.
- Excellent relationships through which the love of God is demonstrated in the daily support and building up of one another.
- An enriching environment that promotes Christian distinctiveness and nurtures spiritual development.

Focus for development

- Extend opportunities for pupils to learn about major world faiths through establishing links with a school of contrasting faith setting.
- To promote the school's Christian distinctiveness within the Alliance.

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

This caring and inclusive community lives out its Christian witness through excellent reciprocated relationships at all levels. Christian values are at the heart of all policy and decision-making. 'We care about them, they care about us and we care about each other' described how one pupil felt

about their school. Pupils of different ages and abilities work and play together cooperatively as staff model excellent teamwork throughout the school, within the Alliance and in the wider community. The creative curriculum is exciting and relevant and involves even the younger pupils in influencing their learning by deciding 'what they would like to find out' within a given curriculum theme. The school promotes an atmosphere in which parents, pupils and staff can share their concerns knowing that their views are listened to and acted on. Pupils, staff and governors confidently express their beliefs and talk openly about their faith. Equality of opportunity is promoted through an appropriately differentiated curriculum and access to a wide range of extra curricular activities, including those suggested by the children. Through involvement in the 'Lifestyle Project', the RSPB Birdwatch and gardening projects pupils have shown their respect for the natural world, recognising it as God's creation to protect and conserve. National and international links are encouraged and celebrated as through the school's involvement in visits to celebrate 200 years of the National Society at Westminster Abbey and through the support given to an African pupil, through Action Aid. The development of the internal space within the unique environment of East Ravensdale school promotes spiritual, moral and cultural development at every turn and contributes emphatically to its Christian distinctiveness.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is recognised by all members of the school community as the corner stone of the school. A distinct and interactive worship area, which pupils and staff can visit at any time of the day, confirms its centrality to the life of the school. This area is marked with crosses, coloured cloths, bibles, prayers books and pupil comment books. It is here that pupils and staff are able to collect their prayer pebbles, small stones arranged in a basket, to take into worship. Space is given for pupils to make their intercessions publicly or simply in that time to offer a silent prayer to God. Worship themes, stories, and information about the two African children the school supports financially are displayed here. Notebooks and pencils enable pupils to write their thank you prayers and share their thoughts. The worship tree adorned with pupils' comments and prayers gives strong evidence of the outstanding impact made on pupils' spiritual development. Together with the opportunity of sticking notes on a "What do you think about Assembly?" poster, pupils are exploring a number of ways to monitor worship in response to the development focus of the last inspection. These responses are kept and evaluated by staff and used to inform future planning. Worship is celebrated in the hall, school grounds, classrooms and in the parish Church. Pupils and staff are engaged and active participants in creative and imaginative worship in what many described as the most important part of the school day. In the worship seen those present were reflective and sensitive to the presence of God. Joyous Christian music is a feature of daily worship and children from foundation know a range of songs and sing with enthusiasm. As one parent put it, 'I know this is a church school because of the songs my children come home and sing' The school has proudly taken part in the Cathedral Chorister project and there are plans to develop this further. A wide range of visitors, including the incumbent, other Christian ministers and the Bishop's Visitor enhance worship. All staff are invited to lead worship and are encouraged to worship with the pupils. Pupils relish the opportunity to lead worship and a small group of older pupils form, with the headteacher a 'worship team' who were keen to stress that any drama or music item included by them had to have as its purpose 'to worship God' Through the development work of local clergy and in cooperation with the school, Holy Communion has been made accessible for the pupils and parishioners when celebrated together in the school hall.

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

Outstanding leadership of this church school ensures its Christian distinctiveness is unashamedly at the heart of everything the school does and is. All members of the community have a voice and are included in the self-evaluation process and in determining the Vision and Values of the school. As a result there is an excellent, coherent and forward thinking development plan in which governors and staff share the headteacher's passionate commitment of meeting the needs of each individual both intellectually and spiritually. This area of development from the last inspection is fully met. Leadership and management recognise and develop the potential to lead in others. Thus enabling them to take on responsibility and to grow in self-confidence and faith whether pupil, staff member or governor. Pupils enjoy and take seriously a number of roles within school and are proud to be recognised as reading buddies, fire safety officers, lunch time helpers for reception children and members of the school council. They are encouraged to present ideas and feedback shows they are listened to and their views are acted on. The Christian ethos of the

school is obvious in all its documentation and in every space around the school. It is also evidenced by the care taken by the governing body to ensure the future Christian Vision of the school through the make up of the trustees in the recently formed academy trust. Working with eight other primary schools in the Athena Alliance has strengthened the quality of teaching and learning and increased staff expertise. It has helped the school focus on accurate assessment and monitoring of the curriculum. All pupils make very good progress from their starting points and the school's priorities are accurately determined. Religious education has a high priority, lessons are well planned to include a focus for assessment and to identify next steps in learning. Pupils participate with enthusiasm in lessons which are planned in line with the locally Agreed Syllabus and wherever possible are incorporated within the Creative Curriculum themes. Through self-evaluation the school has identified the need for pupils to learn more about major world faiths through developing a partnership with a different faith school. Relationships with the local churches are excellent and the school has benefited from active involvement with the clergy and the diocesan education team. The headteacher is proactive in affirming the school's links within the deanery. Twinkles, a toddler group meets in the school hall each week. This provides an opportunity for families in isolated villages to meet together and gain support from health and educational professionals, thus celebrating community cohesion and the school's Christian outreach.

SIAS report September 2012 East Ravendale Church of England Primary School, East Ravendale, Grimsby, DN37 0RX