

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Holy Trinity Church of England VA First School

Bell Tower Place  
Berwick on Tweed  
Northumberland  
TD15 1NB

**Diocese:**

**Newcastle**

Local authority:

Northumberland

Dates of inspection:

January 13<sup>th</sup> 2011

Date of last inspection:

March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 2008

School's unique reference number:

122282

Headteacher:

Mrs Dawn Groves

Inspector's name and number:

Mrs S Robinson

592

### School context

This is a smaller than average First School with 139 pupils on roll plus 26 pupils who attend nursery during mornings only. The proportion of pupils eligible for FSM is below average as is the percentage of pupils with learning difficulties

### Summary Judgement

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Holy Trinity First school are outstanding**

This is a very effective school. Christian values pervade every area of the curriculum; this provides a warm, secure, caring learning environment in which everyone is nourished and encouraged to do their best. Adults are given every opportunity to develop their individual skills in an atmosphere where everyone is valued and nurtured.

### Established strengths

- Pervasive Christian values resulting in a warm, welcoming, caring and fully inclusive school
- A rich and varied learning environment that meets the needs of all learners
- Excellent links between school, church and community

### Focus for development

- Modify and deliver the Church Communion service to pupils, parents and community within school
- Set up and consolidate the link with school in Kenya, allowing pupils, staff and community to experience a completely different way of life

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

This is a fully inclusive school; it meets the needs of all learners exceptionally well. Parents and families value the school and speak very highly of the care given and the opportunities offered, 'the care my granddaughter was given last year when she had a medical problem was special. She always wanted to go to school.' Pupils feel respected, safe and listened to. They enjoy their work and their levels of esteem, maturity and independence are high. It is clear that there is a strong, co-operative working relationship between the headteacher and staff, assisted by a well-run governing body and supportive church, all working consistently to maintain a Christian ethos as they drive school improvement. The school is visibly a Christian community with signs, symbols and prayers being very much part of their displays. The school uses this Christian character to nourish, encourage and challenge the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development of all learners.

Pupils are polite, welcoming, and their behaviour is exceptional. The school councils, elected, and volunteer helpers, are integral to the cohesive running of the school. Whether in the classroom or around the school, pupils display mature thinking.

Pupils in Year 4 apply, are interviewed and appointed as 'Buddies' to pupils in the Reception Class. They escort them to Worship, are with them on excursions and ensure they are safe in the playground. The younger pupils blossom with this gentle nurturing and adopt the behaviour and kindness that pervades the school.

The school supports several charities, and raises awareness and funds; most recently for MacMillan Cancer Care with a coffee morning organised and managed by Year 4 children, and for national events such as Red Nose Day and Children in Need etc.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Collective Worship plays a central and vital role in the school community; at least a third of parents attend weekly. It is recognisably Christian; pupils lead, contribute and develop the worship every week with great enthusiasm. The worship involves high levels of participation and a very positive response from those attending. Christian values promoted in worship are clearly evident when talking to learners and throughout the school. There are excellent links with the local church. Groups of the Year 4 class weekly attend the Thursday Communion and are encouraged to hold, touch and use the Communion vessels. Other religious traditions are celebrated throughout the year allowing pupils to experience and value the faith of others.

Celebration Friday is a weekly occurrence. This celebrates awards in a variety of areas such as progress, kindness, helping others and specific awards for each class. Parents and the community are invited to attend these very popular occasions.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

The RE Policy is diverse but yet specific and is co-ordinated by a senior leader who inspires staff to ensure religion is not a separate subject but infiltrates all other subjects and day to day living. RE is consistently and rigorously assessed through each stage of the pupils' learning. Pupils are assessed through 'I can.....' statements. This shows the pupils are able to self assess and that they are able to monitor their own learning. Pupils learn about sharing with others, respect, kindness and that we are all different.

A Year 4 lesson was based on Andras Simon, a European artist, who drew in one continuous line. The theme was developed through God's love being continuous and eternal. The pupils were eloquent and innovative in their responses. The lesson linked together a variety of themes through Art, philosophy, and abstract thoughts with their own imagery. This showed that Pupils gained considerable confidence, spiritual and moral development and insight from RE.

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

The leadership of the school is inspirational. Each person is valued, their uniqueness recognised and developed. The staff and governors are highly committed to providing excellent education and ensuring everyone is valued as an individual. All the staff have a responsibility area contributing to a happy Christian environment. Celebration of achievement, encouragement and praise are freely given. Rigorous and accurate school evaluation ensures academic progress. The governors provide very good support and challenge; both contribute to the distinctive Christian ethos. The school is highly regarded by the local community. The school is highly inclusive in its evaluation of itself as a Church school and ensures all partners contribute in a meaningful way to the school improvement. This leads to the school having a clear and strategic view about Church school improvement.

SIAS report January 2011 Holy Trinity Church of England VA First School TD15 1NB