



Nyewood CE Junior School, Bognor Regis

Diocese of Chichester

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Inspection Report



Date of inspection: 28 June 2012

Name of inspector: Hilary Ferries

NS inspector's number: 276

School address: Brent Road
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO21 5NW

Unique reference number: 126021

Status: Voluntary Aided

Number on roll: 250

Age range of pupils: 7-11

LA: West Sussex

Name of chair of governors: Steve Jupp

Name of headteacher: Jon Williams

Date of previous inspection: October 2008

The inspection of denominational education and collective worship in the school was carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Description of the school

Nyewood is an average size junior school situated in a residential area of Bognor Regis. Pupils come from the immediate locality and other areas of the town. The school is on the same campus as Nyewood CE Infant School. The school draws pupils from a diverse intake. A small minority of pupils are on the Special Needs Register. A small number of families attend the parish church and other local churches. The current headteacher has been in post just under two years and the deputy just under three years.

Summary judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Nyewood CE Junior School, Bognor Regis as a Church of England school are good.

All members of the school community speak very positively of the Christian nature of the school and its development. Underpinned by Christian values, which are promoted through Collective Worship, Religious Education (RE) and in the environment, the school is confident about its Church school identity.

Grade: 2

Established strengths

- The clarity and commitment of the leadership to ensure that the Christian vision is promoted and understood by all members of the school community
- Positive relationships based on Christian values which influence action
- Strong links with the local churches and vicar

Focus for development

- Embed assessment procedures for RE consistently across the school
- Increase teacher confidence in assessing RE
- Formalise the governors' systems to monitor, evaluate and shape the direction of the school as a Church school

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship	Yes
The school meets the statutory requirement for Religious Education	Yes

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

The mission statement, 'Moving forward, Learning together, Growing in God's love', exemplifies the journey Nyewood is making. The school celebrates its distinctive nature well, with special areas in every classroom that celebrate the Christian value for the term. These values are used regularly for worship and reflection and pupils speak positively of them and the impact they have on their lives. They are also shared in the school newsletters which further proclaim the Christian nature of the school.

Opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are part of everyday school life. Spiritual development is woven through every area of the curriculum and pupils, both interviewed and observed in RE, made connections with values and their application to life. Cultural diversity is celebrated. The behaviour policy is based on the Christian values of forgiveness and reconciliation, pupils have a clear sense of right and wrong and as a result behaviour is very good. Pupil voice is a strength of the school. Pupils feel that they are valued and that their views are important and taken seriously. This is a result of the excellent Christian care provided by the strong staff team. The school council has formed working parties that have a real influence on school life – for example the worship committee plans and delivers worship which is well received by fellow pupils. The school has made progress in developing the external area of the school which was identified in the last inspection and the spiritual garden is planned to open in September.

Grade: 2

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good.

'We pray to God to worship Him' was the view of one pupil of the importance of Collective Worship. All pupils spoke positively of Collective Worship and these views were well supported by the evaluations carried out by a range of stakeholders. These evaluations show an increasing focus on feedback on elements of worship, rather than organisational issues and enable the school to improve worship further. There is a clear programme of themes during the year and clear a pattern of worship across the week. Planning for whole school worship is detailed and thorough. The pupil worship committee made up of members of the school council plans and delivers an act of worship each term, which are well received by the pupils. They also value class based worship where teachers follow the theme for the week or an issue that has arisen in class. These acts of worship are monitored by the headteacher, but not formally planned.

Every act of Collective Worship uses liturgy, including an Anglican greeting and dismissal, there is an altar in the hall dressed in liturgical colours and as a result pupils are familiar with the Anglican tradition. A termly Eucharist service, recently introduced, also contributes to this and the school attends regular services at the parish church to celebrate major Christian festivals. The frequent visits from the vicar and clergy from other local churches contribute well to the pupils' understanding of the place of worship in people's lives.

Prayer is an important part of school life. There are prayers said at lunchtime and at the end of the day and several classrooms have opportunities for pupils to write their own prayers.

Grade: 2

The effectiveness of Religious Education is satisfactory.

Since the last inspection there have been several changes to RE. A new syllabus has been designed and introduced which has an appropriate balance of Christianity and other faiths and learning about and learning from studies of RE. Pupils interviewed were positive about the subject: 'RE is awesome', one pupil said. They enjoy the wide range of activities, especially art and drama and visits to places of worship. This is because the quality of teaching is at least good. This was observed in the inspection and supported by accurate lesson observations carried out by senior leaders. This more positive engagement in learning is leading to improved progress and rising standards, although staff do not hold yet an overall picture and common understanding of levels which would enable pupil progress to be accelerated.

The headteacher is RE coordinator and monitors regularly. He and an Higher Level Teaching Assistant with an interest and knowledge of RE check the planning and provide practical support to teachers to deliver lessons. This is leading to improved confidence for those teachers who have not previously taught RE. The assessment system is in its first year and being rolled out across the school. There is a positive picture of achievement beginning to emerge but this is not yet part of everyday practice across the school.

Grade: 3

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

The headteacher and his senior leadership team promote a clear Christian vision for the school in all areas of school life and to all stakeholders. This has meant a strengthening of the Christian distinctiveness shown in the renewed mission statement, the promotion and development of the reflection areas and the definition of RE as a core subject. They are well supported by the governing body that have successfully addressed the issue from the last inspection about awareness of the school as a Church school. Governors are increasingly becoming involved with the monitoring and evaluation, with named governors taking on links with classes and a supportive yet challenging relationship. There is much individual good practice, but no strategic way of using the information to most effectively support and challenge the school as a Church school.

The headteacher is also RE coordinator and worship coordinator and displays strong Christian leadership, well supported by the deputy headteacher. He has raised the profile of RE in the school. He includes Church school issues as a strand on the development plan and has developed the Christian ethos alongside the focus on standards in maths and English.

There are very good relationships with the parish church and other local churches. Clergy work well together to support the school and the parish priest comes in weekly to support the school, both by leading worship and by offering pastoral care to the headteacher and staff. Members of the congregation are involved in the life of the school and there are good links between church and school. Parents are very positive about the school and the leadership team is developing a range of strategies to engage and support them further.

Grade: 2