



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Elvington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Dauby Lane
Elvington
YO41 4HP

Diocese: York

Local authority: City of York
Date of inspection: 3rd October 2014
Date of last inspection: June 2010
School's unique reference number: 121531
Head teacher: J Rogers
Inspector's name and number: Denise Brogden 486

School context

Elvington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a smaller than average sized school with strong links with the village church. The head teacher has been in post since September 2010. A small minority of pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities. The proportion of pupils from ethnic groups is very low.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Elvington Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Elvington Church of England Primary School is an outstanding school that truly reflects its Christian foundation.
- Its key values of thankfulness, friendship, trust, endurance and compassion are clearly rooted in a strong Christian tradition which is at the heart of the school.
- The Christian environment enables pupils to engage with collective worship which honours the Anglican tradition.

Areas to improve

- Extend evaluation of collective worship to the whole school community to ensure integrity in worship.
- Develop national and international links to support the schools understanding of the importance of diverse cultures.
- Develop the outdoor reflection area to nurture pupil's spiritual development.

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

The school is strongly committed to the nurture and care of all its pupils promoted through clear Christian principles. The outstanding care, guidance and emotional support provided for pupils helps to truly nourish the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of learners. The Christian ethos permeates all of school life and is especially seen in the strong mutual respect between staff and pupils. Academic achievement of learners is outstanding with end of key stage results consistently above national average. Data in RE indicates pupils are at expected age related expectations and in some classes above. Children are encouraged to develop high expectations in

all areas of their learning. Attendance is very high because the school is committed to serving all the children and families by providing the highest quality education. The value of community is very well supported in the sharing assembly when pupils and parents celebrate the achievements of all pupils and reflect on motivation for learning which is excellent. Pupil behaviour is outstanding because the pupils live out the school's core values of friendship, trust and compassion. The introduction of peer mediators is helping younger pupils understand about reconciliation and forgiveness. Such values underpin all of school life and are constantly modelled by the whole community. As a result parents report conflict is resolved speedily. Pupils recognise the teaching of key values helps them to 'treat others as we want to be treated'. Religious education (RE) has a high priority in school and RE displays reflect the teaching of Christian stories and the pupil's reflections of these. The importance of pupils' learning about other cultures is already identified by the school, but has yet to be fully realised. Pupils consistently demonstrate the value of Christian service by supporting a range of charities which nurtures their global awareness and understanding. An excellent example includes their fundraising for a child in India, ensuring his right to attend school is fulfilled, this putting their beliefs into action.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Daily collective worship is important in the life of the school providing an affirming experience for pupils, staff and visitors, being at the heart of school life and grounded in Christian values. Pupils, along with staff and local clergy plan and deliver worship, showing the school has moved on from the last inspection. A foundation governor has engaged pupils in evaluating worship which has brought about desired changes including more pupil involvement. Regular evaluation takes place and the school recognises the need for the whole school community to evaluate worship. Parents recognise worship has a positive and inspiring effect on the spiritual and moral development of pupils, identifying reflective times impacting on the day to day thinking and action of pupils. Children willingly volunteer to take part in worship including reading the school prayer and especially like time for reflection. Class prayers are shared before lunch each day and prayers in the prayer box are prayed for by church members. The importance of prayer is highly valued by pupils and parents. The vicar begins worship with responsive liturgy and a new 'mobile' altar is helping pupils become familiar with Christian symbols. Worship is creative and consistently inspiring for pupils and parents. The excellent link between church and school ensure the importance of prayer is highly valued by parents and pupils alike.

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

The head teacher, together with senior leaders and governors, provides outstanding leadership as all of school life is embedded in Christian values. The ethos of the school is shared, understood and very well supported by all members of the school community. The school is proactive at eliminating discrimination of any kind. The Diocese has provided excellent support including through robust yearly visits. The values of trust, service, compassion, endurance and thankfulness link with Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) themes and these have been integrated into Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural developments and subject policies. Foundation governors are proactive in leading parts of the school development plan, including monitoring and evaluating through pupil voice on worship. This highlights how the school has moved on since the last inspection to clarify the distinctiveness of a church school. There is a current review of the core values which includes the whole school community. Parents recognise the very clear Christian values which 'are interwoven through everything that happens at school'. RE and collective worship are very well led and managed and are key areas within the school development plan. Several members of staff engage in leadership courses, showing how governors offer excellent support of professional development of staff. Local clergy play an important role in their support of the school's Christian ethos, this is much valued. At this school, everyone is deeply committed and works hard to ensure there are happy children who are confident and successful learners, with care and respect for each other being at the heart of the school.