



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Egton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Egton
Whitby
North Yorkshire
YO21 1UT

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: York

Local authority: North Yorkshire

Date of inspection: 3 July 2015

Date of last inspection: July 2010

School's unique reference number: 121610

Headteacher: Liz Orland

Inspector's name and number: Lizzie McWhirter 244

School context

Egton is a small, distinctively Christian rural primary school, serving the parishes of Middle Esk on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors. The school is part of the Esk Valley Teaching Alliance [EVA]. There are 52 pupils on roll who are almost all from a White British background. The proportion of disadvantaged pupils or those with special educational needs is higher than average. This is because parents choose this school for its family-style nurture.

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

- Within this school's strong, inclusive and nurturing Christian ethos, children grow in confidence and their love of learning together.
- The worshipping life of this community, where prayer is important, enriches the daily lives and spiritual journey of everyone.
- Mutual and substantial links between church, school and village are valued by everyone.
- The Christian vision and dedication of the leadership and management of the school, including staff, ensures the Christian character of this school permeates all school life.

Areas to improve

- Extend pupils' involvement in target setting and self-assessment in religious education [RE] to give them a clearer understanding of their own learning journey in this subject.
- Deepen pupils' understanding of the worldwide Christian Church and enable them to meet people of other faiths to enhance their learning and support their spiritual and cultural development.

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

Egton sustains a creative, exciting and inspirational Christian learning environment. Everyone learns and grows together within this inclusive family based rural primary school. This is because the school and all who work in it are dedicated to its Christian character, which enables it to be both distinctive and effective. The visible and explicit Christian values of friendship, respect and trust permeate all school life. Attendance is very good and there have been no exclusions. This is because the school's emphasis is very much on helping pupils to achieve and to become happy, well rounded and unique individuals. They are encouraged to blossom and grow within a spirit of empathy, mutual trust, respect and friendship. Consequently, all pupils achieve highly because they are nurtured and supported. Virtually all pupils make good progress from their starting points. Relationships and behaviour are exemplary. Excellent examples include the school's Christian code of conduct and five-step behaviour plan. This was written by the children and is reviewed by them annually. Clubs allow a wide range of achievement to be celebrated. These include gardening, football, art and cookery. Charity work, which includes collecting money for Fairtrade and taking part in the Archie Bishop leadership awards, enriches pupils' experience of Christian service and responsibility and their place in the world. Pupils show respect for diverse cultures, communities and beliefs through RE and worship, which make very good contributions to the school's Christian character and to pupils' personal development. The Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Whitby have visited the school which helps pupils understand what it means to be part of the wider diocesan family. Older pupils visit York Minster for Diocesan Family Days. In addition, the growing link the school has with the school and church community in Africa is nurturing pupils' understanding of worldwide Anglican faith and tradition. However, the school acknowledges that deepening pupils' understanding of the worldwide Anglican Church is an area for development.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship involves and engages pupils and adults, including teaching staff. It encourages pupils to become independent worshippers and explore their own personal faith journey. Prayer is vitally important in daily school life. Excellent examples include the outdoor prayer walk, designed by younger pupils. In addition, older pupils act as prayer ambassadors. They collect any prayers from the prayer net and the prayer box which are included in Monday worship. Prayer and reflection are encouraged at home. Very good examples include the Advent and Easter bags, which parents say are used well and promote a strong focus on the liturgical season. Worship follows the pattern of the church year with a new Christian value chosen fortnightly. All the Christian values explored in worship are very evident around boards in every room. Pupils and staff evaluation is gathered to inform practice. A different worship team leads worship fortnightly, giving pupils leadership responsibilities and experiences. St Hilda's Day is celebrated annually. More recently, the Bishop of Whitby blessed the new stained glass window in The Lair, of which everyone is very proud. Children designed this visible symbol which depicts the school's identity, reflecting St Hilda's cross, the salmon of the River Esk and the North Yorkshire moors. Pupils speak of St Hilda, after whom their church is named, as 'mother who holds Whitby Abbey in her hand'. The vicar of St Hilda's Church is a welcome and regular visitor to school, leading worship. Services take place in St Hilda's Church, such as Harvest. The Crib service, which is shared with St Hedda's School, also takes place in St Hilda's Church. Pupils enjoy church worship and find it peaceful. They would welcome the opportunity for more worship outdoors as they 'have such a beautiful view 'from the school grounds. They particularly like singing 'Father God' in worship as they know 'he will always be beside you'. They enjoy the focus on values, such as wisdom, and the link they are able to make between Bible stories and their own lives. Good examples include King Solomon 'who was wise as he solved the problem'. They comment that, 'Jesus tells the stories to change their behaviour and ours'. Pupils are growing in their understanding of The Holy Trinity. They use an apple to explain, 'The pips mean the Holy Spirit inside you. The skin means the Father protects you. The

flesh means Jesus is God in human form and God sent Jesus down in the flesh'. Some pupils have been confirmed recently, with the preparation classes taking place in school. This demonstrates the close link between church and school and the important role of the school and church together encouraging children to become independent worshippers.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

RE is currently led by the headteacher with the support of the RE Team. Teaching and learning is good, with pupils enjoying their RE. They can relate the Christian narrative well and can explain the Christmas and Easter story, Ascension and Pentecost in their own words. They understand the importance of learning about other faiths and have particularly enjoyed recent work on Islam, including a visit to the mosque. They say they would like to visit other places of worship and meet more people of faith. The school recognises the importance of such visits and encounters to support pupils' spiritual and cultural development and is looking to expand the range of opportunities offered. Tracking and assessment is in place, with all pupils making good progress. Big RE books capture pupil progression and creative RE lessons well. Next steps include extending target setting and involving pupils in their own self-assessment so they grow in knowledge and understanding of their own learning journey in RE. Lessons encourage respect. Pupils also ask important questions, such as 'Does Islam have saints?' or 'Do Muslims have a vicar?' They are given space to reflect on their feelings, what they learn and interests them and have their questions answered.

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

Parents publicly proclaim that the family feel of this rural primary school is very important to their children and for them. Parents and pupils value the strong links between church, school and village communities. Excellent examples include the annual Pentecost picnic and mass shared with St Hedda's Roman Catholic Primary School and Church in the village and use of the school by St Hilda's Church for its summer fair. In addition, Egton pupils designed a church trail with key questions for different parts of St Hilda's Church, such as the vestry, altar and font. Geo-cache detective trails encourage visitors into the church where the strong partnership between church and school is very evident. The RE Team is well established. It has its own separate action plan which feeds into full governing body meetings. It meets several times a year, and has benefitted greatly from diocesan support and training. A hallmark of Egton School is the establishment of 'Governor of the month'. This means that the monitoring of RE is not always carried out by the RE link governor, but is a shared responsibility. RE is monitored twice a year and collective worship is monitored by governors also. This ensures that worship and RE both meet statutory requirements. The new RE coordinator, the headteacher, is well supported by the governors as they 'grow together in God'. Governors ensure the wellbeing of pupils is of paramount importance. They also support the professional development of staff. The headteacher shares her knowledge of leading a small school with other schools in the diocese. She leads this school with her Christian vision and dedication, which is embraced by the whole school community who work together very effectively as a team. The school is part of the Esk Valley Alliance and values the opportunities this provides for collaborative working with local schools.

SIAMS report July 2015 Egton VA Primary School, North Yorkshire YO21 1UT