

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Eyam Church of England (Controlled) Primary School

Church Street
Eyam
Hope Valley
S32 5QH

Diocese: Derby

Local authority:	Derbyshire
Dates of inspection:	20 th May 2009
Date of last inspection:	5 th /8 th June 2006
School's unique reference number:	122759
Headteacher:	Mrs Helen Cook
Inspector's name and number:	Mrs Louise Patterson (310)

School context

Eyam is a small village school which serves the village and surrounding rural area. Almost all pupils are from white British backgrounds and there is a below average proportion of pupils with learning difficulties. Pupils are taught in mixed age classes. The school has achieved several awards, including the ECO Schools Green Flag award and the Health Promoting Schools Award. The school is also a Fairtrade school. The church is a short walk from the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Eyam Church of England (Controlled) Primary School as a Church of England school is outstanding.

Christian values underpin every aspect of the life of the school and this is making a significant impact on learners. The quality of relationships witnessed during the inspection is very good, making all members of the school community feel valued and special. Pupils are happy, confident and caring of their school and each other. The outstanding Christian ethos is lived out by the whole school community, having a positive impact on all involved.

Established strengths

- The support and nurture of every child, within a Christian framework, enables them to achieve well and develop into confident, caring and thoughtful individuals.
- The high quality, thoughtful worship written and delivered by pupils.
- The commitment of the head teacher, staff and governors to the Christian status of the school.

Focus for development

- Involve pupils in the review of the school's Christian foundation.
- Build in elements of Anglican liturgy to aid in the understanding of Anglican tradition and foundation of the school.
- Introduce review and evaluation by foundation governors using objective criteria and evidence.

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

Confident, happy and caring pupils effectively demonstrate their awareness, knowledge and understanding of Christian principles. The needs of the individual are clearly understood and acted upon. The children spoken to during the inspection consistently voiced their happiness with the school, saying such things as, 'I think everything is good', and 'it is just like a big family'. Parents consistently expressed their happiness with the school as a church school, valuing the open door policy and the positive contribution made by the Generational pastor. Learners are shown respect and kindness by adults and there is willingness and opportunity for pupils to discuss a range of issues. The school environment is used effectively to encourage spiritual development. This is evident in the focus on prayer. Prayer is a strong feature of the school, evident in many areas around school such as the foyer, class prayer books and in the hall. Pupils are confident to write and deliver prayer in school worship, class worship and in church services. Religious education is making a significant contribution to the spiritual development of pupils. Through the developments with ECO schools, a school in Uganda and Fairtrade, pupils are developing concepts of stewardship and a sense of responsibility for their school and wider community. There is very good community involvement with the school being one of the central foci of village life. The school offers a good range of after school activities.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Worship occupies an important place in the life of the school, providing pupils and staff with good opportunities to develop spiritually, through prayer, song and times of reflection. Worship takes place in a well organised and generally peaceful environment. There is an effective visual focus used in the hall, though pupils said this was not consistent in classroom worship. Pupils speak positively about worship, saying, 'we like time to pray to God' and 'it makes us stronger as a family'. The pupils are now keen to be the ones to deliver and plan worship after some initial misgivings. Worship delivered by visitors and pupils is effective and pupils enjoy these positive experiences. To ensure relevance, the views of pupils have been sought regarding worship and appropriate changes made. This demonstrates how the suggestions and opinions of pupils are valued. The school celebrates the major festivals in church with the local vicar. These are well attended and enjoyed by pupils, staff and visitors. Pupils would like more opportunities to worship in church 'preferably once a week'. This view was echoed by a number of pupils.

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

The very strong leadership of the head teacher and the commitment and dedication of all involved ensures that the Christian distinctiveness is pervasive. The vicar voiced this, saying, 'it is embedded in who we are'. The local church is supportive, especially contributions made by the PCC, foundation governors and Generational pastor as 'prayerful partners'. The local vicar has increased his involvement with the school since the last inspection. This is a foundation on which to build even stronger links. Governors are proud of the school and challenge appropriately to maintain and strengthen the Christian distinctiveness. This is not currently based on objective criteria and evidence. School council are actively involved and really do feel that they 'have a voice'. Staff are valued and appreciated and there is a very strong supportive team spirit. Role models provided by adults in the school are the inspiration for the high expectations of care and respect for the individual, which are characteristics of the school. The Christian vision of the school is reflected in the environment, with appropriate Christian symbols reminding pupils and the community of the foundation of the school. Currently, pupils are not involved in the discussion regarding the foundation and values of the school, or their impact. The school has effectively addressed the issues from the previous denominational report. The school lives out its values and motto, 'happy to learn, happy to share, happy to do our best', based on firm Christian foundations.

