



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Kirkby Malzeard Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Kirkby Malzeard
Ripon
HG4 3RT

Diocese: Ripon & Leeds

Local authority: North Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 3rd March 2014

Date of last inspection: 16th October 2008

School's unique reference number: 121570

Headteacher: Mrs Andrea Peacock

Inspector's name and number: Mr R D Masterton 483

School context

Kirkby Malzeard School has 85 children and serves a rural Yorkshire Dales village near Ripon. All pupils are White British and the proportion eligible for the pupil premium or having special educational needs or disabilities is well below average. The school is situated opposite the parish church. The head teacher also has executive responsibility for a second Church of England primary school situated in a nearby village.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Kirkby Malzeard as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- Christian values are relentlessly applied to inform and enrich all educational provision at the school particularly through developing a spiritual dimension to teaching.
- Children's personal development is outstanding. The mature dialogue that older pupils can demonstrate with respect to ideas of Christian understanding testifies to the strong influence of the school on their intellectual and spiritual development.
- School staff at all levels of responsibility, grow a strong capacity and enthusiasm to improve distinctive church school provision.
- There are seamless links between the work of the school and that of the parish church.

Areas to improve

- Children should be given more opportunity to plan and lead collective worship, particularly in front of the whole school, and extend their contribution to a process of formal evaluation.
- Develop a deeper understanding for children of the Holy Trinity and give them opportunities to explore what the Eucharist means to Christians.

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

There is a complete unanimity that recognises Christian values as the driver for the life and work at Kirkby Malzeard School. A fact no more completely exemplified than by older children themselves who praise the mission of the school that grows their confidence, success, accomplishment and responsibility. In school they grow to become articulate, thoughtful, curious learners who are willing to listen and who set out to apply the values they have learned. They are thoughtful and enthusiastic about what they are doing, give support and friendship to each other, help others through charities and generally make a positive contribution. Their achievement is good, as confirmed by a recent OFSTED report; their personal development is outstanding and they attend school enthusiastically. Children work co-operatively and comfortably with the adults they meet and relationships in the school are excellent. Christian values are applied consistently into the experience that children are offered, as for example in a year 5/6 spoken literacy lesson which included a strong spiritual dimension and the way in which younger children work out for themselves how the school mission should be applied to improving their own behaviour. Children's spirituality is developed through reflection, understanding interpreted through Christian teaching and a considered response to issues based on empathy, love and care. School leaders go to great lengths to ensure that children's perspectives on the world are not confined by the rural milieu of their village. Through many school visits, work for charities including that to support a school in Ghana and direct teaching about the nature of the wider world, children have a developed a good awareness of those in different situations to themselves. Religious Education (RE) makes a major contribution. Standards and progress in RE match those children achieve in mathematics and English. It forms the backdrop to the school's teaching of explicit Christian values such as love, care, reconciliation and forgiveness. It is the context in which older children develop the curiosity, open mindedness, and logical thinking that helps them take firm steps towards almost an adult understanding of what Christians believe and what their faith means to them.

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

Parents, children and staff all acknowledge collective worship to be the most distinctive feature of Kirkby Malzeard as a church school. It inspires school daily work, the response of the community in its work for others and it nurtures the children's notable spiritual development. There is a rich programme planned by staff and clergy. It is characterised by much Christian history and teaching and closely reflects the church calendar. At all stages, planning seeks topics that bring out the Christian values at the heart of the school. Collective worship incorporates symbols, a lighted candle, reverence, music song and prayer. For example a whole school act observed started and ended with a recital from a gifted child at the piano whose performance was acclaimed by his peers. It framed a presentation by the head teacher on 'Getting ready for Easter', which was marked by many enthusiastic contributions from children. Parents and children greatly value the many occasions when the parish church is also used. Children show their willingness to reflect on what they learn and remember the contributions from staff and the parish priest whose input strengthens the theological basis of the programme. However, the school recognises that some more needs to be done to interpret for children the concept of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They also do not get an opportunity to observe Holy Communion services or to contribute to formal evaluation of the impact of collective worship. Children in Years 5 and 6 are now practiced in leading class collective worship themselves on themes they choose. Prayers, readings, music accompanied by visual presentations on such topics as 'empathy' and the 'Lord's Prayer' are put together by children working in pairs. They work with enthusiasm and would relish the opportunity to lead collective worship for all year groups at collective worship in school or in church and to help younger children to grow the same confidence. They want to do this not simply because of the satisfaction of personal achievement but for the way they believe their work might help those who participate. Such is their spirituality!

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

The school mission, ethos and aims are uncompromising in their intention to offer education in the context of active Christian belief and practice. Leaders at all levels understand how to interpret them through the curriculum, relationships in school and work with the wider community. The net result is the good achievement, well being and outstanding personal development of the children. Self evaluation of the schools effectiveness, *as a church school*, by all leaders is detailed perceptive and accurate. Strategic planning builds in key aspects of improving church school distinctiveness such as current work to incorporate and enrich the new agreed syllabus for RE. The inspired work of the head teacher draws on her considerable experience and her flair in empowering the professional creativity of all staff to contribute to school provision. Her recognised skills are being more widely applied in her work as Executive Head Teacher in another church primary school. At Kirkby Malzeard, there is thus a deeply embedded process for developing future leadership within church schools as staff grow their understanding, skills and confidence: working alongside each other, mentoring less experienced colleagues, contributing to self evaluation informed by National Society guidelines and co-operating with staff in the partner primary school. The school works with local Methodist churches, Ripon Cathedral (particularly through music) and the links with the local parish church are particularly strong. A significant proportion of children (12 or more) and their families attend Sunday family worship. School collective worship in church is part of the fabric of parish worship. Older children in school are invited to consider attending confirmation classes. The parish priest and reader view the school as a key focus for the mission of the church. Their work in school is similarly recognised and valued by parents. Governors cherish their school and their oversight has ensured that improvements identified by the previous SIAS inspection have been secured. The role for children in collective worship is well established. School evaluation is secure and very self critical although some lack of detail in explaining Christian values means that they are not fully understood by parents and thus their feedback on the distinctive school provision is only partly explored.

SIAMS report March 2014 Kirkby Malzeard CE VC Primary School HG4 3RT