

Easington C of E Primary
Easington Village
Peterlee
SR8 3BP

Diocese: Durham

Local authority: Durham

Dates of inspection: 25th April 2012

Date of last inspection: 30th November 2006

School's unique reference number: 114231

Headteacher: Mrs C Simpson

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Sheila Robinson 592

School context

Easington C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School is smaller than average and there are 113 pupils on roll at present. The pupils are mostly white British. The portion of pupils having free school meals is well below average. The proportion of pupils having special educational needs is also below average. The school is oversubscribed annually; space is at a premium however, the school functions well through team work and consideration for others.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Easington as a Church of England school are good

This is a good school where Christian values are promoted and the pupils are encouraged to take responsibility not only for themselves but also for others. The pupils are proud of their school and work alongside the staff with a shared honesty, respect and kindness.

Established strengths

- The pupils display exemplary behaviour, attitudes and their understanding of Christian values underpins the positive ethos
- Christian values are lived and modelled by all adults connected with the school – they are clearly understood by the pupils and contribute powerfully to their Social, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual development
- The enthusiastic and committed Headteacher promotes a strong Christian vision for the school
- Parents value the school highly

Focus for development

- Improve the effectiveness of governors as managers by increasing their role in the monitoring and evaluating of the Christian aspects of the school
- Develop the relationship between the church, governors and school
- Establish a place/point of reflection in each classroom to ensure a clear focus for class based worship
- Explore other faiths and cultures within the curriculum

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

All pupils and staff are happy and secure in school. Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development is outstanding it allows the pupils to feel supported and valued. Pupils display exemplary behaviour forming a calm, orderly, family environment. The older children, through a Buddy system, display care and concern for each other. The Headteacher invests in people and her staff are excellent role models. Parents state there is 'a family atmosphere' and know their children are 'in good hands'. Evidence of the Christian character is found throughout the school; in the Reception area there is a significant wooden cross sculpture and in the hall a pupil's model of a church. The school is at the centre of the community and is committed to

activities within the village and also to range of national and international charities, for example Lent is a time for addressing a current charitable cause focussing on "giving" rather than "giving up" something.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective Worship is held daily for all pupils usually led by the Headteacher, ably assisted by pupils. The worship, seen during the inspection, evoked willing participation and a positive response from those present. Pupils were able to link the planting of vegetables with the parable of the sower. Acts of worship are well planned, recorded and evaluated on an annual basis by both pupils and staff resulting in a greater selection of hymns and more pupil involvement. Music is used as the pupils enter and some automatically sing. Pupils are encouraged to write the qualities of Jesus on the poster in the hall. Christian values promoted in worship are evident when speaking to pupils. Outside there is a Reflection area in memory of a mother who died; pupils use this area daily, to sit and chat quietly. However, there is a lack of focus or symbol in classrooms to denote prayer or reflection time. The school uses the nearby church to celebrate the main religious festivals and is planning to take Y6 pupils to weekly communion. Pupils are able to talk knowledgeably and joyfully about the key festivals. Productive links with the church have been initiated.

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

Leadership is totally committed to inclusion. The Headteacher provides a strong and inspirational lead and has the ability to inspire and motivate all in the school. The governing body is effusive in its support of the Headteacher who reflects the Anglican tradition through actions and deeds; articulating the Christian vision to staff so that they feel confident and comfortable in sharing that vision. One member of staff said that there is a 'sense of belonging'. The Chair of Governors states that there is an Anglican ethos inherent in school as seen in Worship and the celebration of Christian Festivals. The new Rector and Chair of Governors are both active in creating opportunities for Church and School links

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