

Mugginton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Mugginton
Weston Underwood
Ashbourne
DE6 4PL

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire
Date of inspection: 16th June 2011
Date of last inspection: 13th March 2008
School's unique reference number: 112862
Headteacher: Mrs J Moore
Inspector's name: Mr A R Gilroy
Inspector's number: 007

School context

Mugginton is a popular, two class church primary school situated in rural west Derbyshire. Some 75% of pupils come from outside the catchment area. Pupils are generally from a white British background. The number with identified special needs is above average, as is the number entitled to free school meals. A new member of the clergy team has been appointed recently following an interregnum.

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

Mugginton CE VC Primary is an excellent church school because its relationships are founded on explicitly Christian values. The vibrant Christian ethos is producing articulate children who are well motivated and have high expectations of themselves and others. The school community is a welcoming one, which thrives on offering the best opportunities to its pupils.

Established strengths

- The headteacher, senior staff and governors have a clear, shared vision and high expectations.
- Everyone is valued, nurtured and challenged to do their best and to succeed, whatever their background.
- The Christian ethos, which is having an excellent impact on the learners who greatly enjoy participating fully in the life of the school.

Focus for development

- Involve stakeholders in monitoring the impact of collective worship on the pupils.
- Develop places for quiet reflection in the outdoor school environment.

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

The pupils of Mugginton CE VC Primary are very proud of their school and the fact that it is a church school. The Christian values of respect, responsibility, generosity, trust, peace, service and forgiveness are core to the ethos of the school and have a strong impact on the attitudes and behaviour of the pupils. As one child who joined the school in the junior class said, 'Everyone is kind here, we are all included in everything, it is great!'. This Christian ethos is supported by close links with the Church and the local community. The school encourages pupils to do their best, celebrating successes and having high expectations of themselves. The provision for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is very strong. Together with a rich and diverse curriculum, this enables the pupils to reflect, to pray and consider the important matters in their lives. The use of many strategies to build social cohesion, confidence and well-being of pupils all underline the school's strength and commitment to its mission statement and a clear expression of the school's Christian character. In addition the school has developed strong links with a city school and with three other schools in different parts of the world. Thus community cohesion both locally and in the

wider sense is very good. Through such actions the pupils are developing a good understanding of the many different faiths and cultures. The atmosphere around school is relaxed and orderly. Relationships in all areas are particularly strong. There is an effective school council, which ensures that all learners have a voice in school decisions. Pupils can't remember any incidents of bullying in the school, saying that any disagreements or conflicts are dealt with properly and fairly by the staff. The pupils are very willing to share what they have learned in religious education lessons, collective worship and in other areas of the curriculum. The themes used for worship and the Christian Bible stories covered in RE are remembered well by many of the pupils. There is a good record of fund-raising for a range of charities and good causes, as well as for the improvement of facilities for the pupils. The pupils enjoy being involved in organising and leading fund-raising and say that it is important to help others who are less fortunate than themselves. Within the classrooms there are focus displays which enable pupils to reflect and consider matters from a Christian perspective. The development of similar areas in the school grounds has been discussed and is to be encouraged. Extra curricular opportunities for the pupils are very good. Parents speak highly of the family environment in the school and the level of care for the whole child. Every child really does matter at Mugginton.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship occupies a central place in the life of the school and pupils speak of the value they place on the whole school coming together as a family. Their interest and attitude to worship is good. The school planning for worship has developed well since the last inspection. It indicates that the pupils enjoy a wide range of topics and issues during worship through the week. These regularly include stories from the Bible. The pupils have good recall of many of them and some can also relate how the messages taught have influenced their thinking. The presentation and delivery of worship is monitored carefully by the headteacher. As yet, the other stakeholders have not been involved in evaluating the impact of collective worship. Some pupils can express how worship both at church and in school is meaningful to them personally. In the past a member of the clergy team took collective worship fortnightly and there are plans to revive this now that the new curate is in post. Such involvement in the worshipping life of the school is good as it aids the pupils understanding of Anglican practice and ritual. Currently this understanding is good. Pupils celebrate all the major Christian festivals and each half term plan and present acts of worship in the parish church. This enables them to have ownership of their own worship and is helpful in developing their understanding of Christian worship and practice. Pupils have good knowledge of a range of Christian symbols and they know the Lord's Prayer and the school prayer. Some can explain the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, which they have learned in the traditional form. In addition to the morning collective worship, pupils pray together before lunch, so confirming that all are part of the school's Christian family and class prayers are said at the start and end of the day, which demonstrates the school's commitment to developing the pupils understanding of prayer and its purpose in daily life.

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

There is an outstanding sense of Christian community in Mugginton, due to the vision and leadership of the headteacher, who articulates the school ethos well. She is ably supported by the staff, governors and parents who understand and share the vision. Exemplary relationships throughout the school show the key role that Christian values play in the community. Everyone feels valued and all model the school ethos. There is a real sense of togetherness in the school, 'one big family', as one parent put it, where everyone works hard to ensure the pupils reach their potential, equipping them with skills for life. All are clear about the importance of the Christian vision of this church school as is indicated in the responses from parents to the regular questionnaires. The school is a very important part in the small community and is very well supported, both by the parish who have worked hard to maintain close links during the interregnum and by the wider community. Governors are conscientious and provide challenge to the school, as well as giving time, encouragement and support in all aspects of school life. The areas for development identified in the last inspection have been addressed. Currently the monitoring and evaluation of the school as a church school is generally carried out by the headteacher, who then reports the outcomes to the governing body.