

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Scargill Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Beech Lane  
West Hallam  
Ilkeston  
Derbyshire  
DE7 6GU

**Diocese: Derby**

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Date of last inspection: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009

School's unique reference number: 112859

Headteacher: Mrs Norma Ross

Inspector's name: Mr A R Gilroy

Inspector's number: 007

#### School context

Scargill CE Aided Primary School is an above average sized primary school mainly serving the village of West Hallam. The school occupies extensive, bright and welcoming buildings which have been sympathetically modernised and extended in recent times. Most pupils are from a white British background and the number entitled to free school meals is below the national average. It has below average numbers of pupils with identified special needs, although the number with statements is above average.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Scargill Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

Scargill is an excellent church school where relationships are founded on explicitly Christian values. The articulate pupils are well motivated and keen to do well in school. It is a welcoming, Christian community which endeavours to offer its pupils the best opportunity to grow and develop through the formative years of their education.

#### 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.
- The strong links between the school, the parish and the local community.

#### Focus for development

- Involve all stakeholders in regularly monitoring the impact of collective worship and religious education on the pupils.
- Review the teaching of religious education to ensure that the pupils have clarity of understanding about the different faiths studied to enable them to apply their knowledge appropriately.
- Provide pupils with regular opportunity to take responsibility for the planning and delivery of the day to day worship.

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

The pupils are proud of their school and its close links with the church. The Christian values of love, respect, generosity of spirit, care and forgiveness are core to all that the school does. As a result pupils work and play together very well both in school and on the playground, showing excellent behaviour. Social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is very strong. The school has strong links with the local community and with a school in India which has

developed the excellent community cohesion of the school. There is a relaxed, orderly atmosphere around and within the school buildings and pupils are clearly enjoying their work and play. There is an effective school council which gives the pupils an opportunity to contribute their thoughts and ideas to the school's decision making process. The school has a good record of fund-raising for a range of causes and is often led by the pupils. There are focused display areas in each classroom and in communal areas which highlight the status of the school as a church school. Parents speak highly of the school, the care and concern shown to their children and the very professional way in which staff work. They say the school works well with the community, as one parent said, 'My children learn respect, and a real care and concern for others at Scargill'. Another said, 'The staff are really brilliant, her teacher really knows my child and is very detailed when explaining her progress at parents meetings'.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Worshipping together is central to the life of Scargill school and is greatly enjoyed by the pupils who value coming together to hear about and worship God. The vast majority of pupils engage very well, listening carefully, singing with enthusiasm, participating appropriately and responsively in both response prayers and quiet prayer. There is very good pupil involvement in the presentation of day to day worship and in the preparation for special services. The pupils have an excellent recall of many of the worship stories and some can also relate how the messages taught have influenced their thinking. They know many stories from the Bible although their knowledge of parables is underdeveloped. A wide range of appropriate topics are covered and the all the staff take part and lead worship, indicating the importance placed on this aspect of school life and their commitment to it. The planning is very good and the presentation of worship is carefully monitored by pupils and staff. There is good use of response prayers, and pupils have an excellent knowledge of a range of Christian symbols and artefacts indicating their deep importance to this Anglican school. Pupils celebrate all the major Christian festivals and plan and present acts of worship in the parish church. This enables them to have ownership of the worship and is helpful in developing their understanding of Christian worship and practice. The rector is regularly in school, taking worship and being involved in the life of the school, as are members of the church community, which has helped develop the excellent links between the two communities. Pupils know the Lord's Prayer and understand and can interpret its meaning well. In addition to the morning collective worship, pupils pray together before lunch and class prayers are said at the end of the day, which demonstrates the school's strong commitment to developing the pupils understanding of prayer and its purpose in daily life.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

Good standards are achieved and are similar or better than those achieved in the other core curriculum areas. Planning is good and there is a developing but regular use of assessment to inform a range of learning strategies that are appropriate to the needs of the pupils. Pupils engage well in their learning, showing a real interest and enthusiasm for their work. There is a growing and developing spiritual and moral awareness in the pupils who are able to raise and cogently discuss many deep concepts by year six. They talk openly and confidently about their beliefs and understanding of Christianity and faith and what it means for them which illustrates the impact religious education is having on them. Although cultural and religious diversity is limited within the school community, the work undertaken in religious education helps promote the pupils understanding of others. However, currently the older pupils' knowledge of other faiths and the way in which they are practised lacks clarity. Whilst they know numerous facts about different faiths, they are unable to relate them accurately to specific religions studied.

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

The vision of the headteacher is having an outstanding impact on Scargill school and its pupils. 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. This is particularly noticeable in that the school works extremely well with their statemented pupils, involving them appropriately in the life of the school and accepting the need to make special provision and allowances for them. There is a real sense of togetherness in the school, 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. Governors are conscientious and provide challenge to the school, as well as giving time, encouragement and support in all aspects of school life. They review the schools ethos and aims annually to ensure that they are addressing the school vision and the needs of the pupils appropriately. The areas for development identified in the last inspection have been addressed. There is a very strong and mutual support between the school and the parish, as well as with the local Methodist community. The relationship with the local secondary school is well developed and pupils express few of the concerns usually raised by year six pupils about their imminent move to the next stage of their education.

SIAS report November 2011 Scargill CE V A Primary School, West Hallam, Derbyshire, DE7 6GU