



The National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools
(Carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005)

Houghton on the Hill Church of England Primary School

Inspection Report

Address of School:	Main Street Houghton on the Hill Leicester LE7 9GD
Telephone Number:	0116 241 2465
Email Address:	office@houghton.leics.sch.uk
School Category:	Voluntary Controlled
Unique Reference Number:	120136
Type of School:	Primary
Diocese:	Leicester
Local Authority:	Leicestershire
Inspection Date:	9 May and 12 May 2011
Reporting Inspector (and No):	Mrs Marian Driver (No. 116)
Appropriate Authority:	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors:	Mr Mark Smith
Headteacher:	Mrs Jan Knox
Pupils on school roll:	177

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Main Street
Houghton on the Hill
Leicestershire
LE7 9GD

Diocese:

Local authority: Leicester

Dates of inspection: 9 May and 12 May 2011

Date of last inspection: 14 and 15 April 2008

School's unique reference number: 120136

Headteacher: Mrs Jan Knox

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Marian Driver (No. 116)

School context

Houghton on the Hill has 177 pupils aged from 4 to 10. The majority of the pupils are from white English heritage with a small % of ethnic minority pupils. The number of pupils with special educational needs is well below average as is pupils eligible for free school meals. This is a popular oversubscribed school with many families from out of catchment.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Houghton on the Hill as a Church of England school are good

The school provides a very successful learning environment with a distinctive Christian ethos where each pupil is known and valued. Relationships between the school and local community reflect care and concern for others. There are positive links with the local parish church.

Established strengths

- The headteacher has a clear vision for the school and shows a strong commitment to the Christian Foundation.
- Christian principles are lived out in practice where all pupils and adults are valued highly.
- Every opportunity is used to foster and nurture spiritual development with special emphasis on the outdoor environment.

Focus for development

- Celebrate the Christian ethos of the school more explicitly with Christian artefacts and displays in shared areas.
- Vary and increase the monitoring and evaluation processes for collective worship and the school's distinctive Christian character.
- Develop strong links with the new incumbent within the school and church.

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

The school provides a welcoming Christian community reaching out to include others and learning from them. The 'Celebrating Faiths' display in the hall shows photographs and information regarding Christian and other faith events celebrated within families. Links made with a local school and a school in Malawi enhances this understanding. Christian values such as love, friendship, compassion and forgiveness underpin the life of the school and provide themes of worship and RE to be explored, discussed and lived out. Circle time, often taken outside in the new 'Peace Garden' provide opportunities for children to ask questions and respond to life events. Pupils feel happy and secure in school and parents talk of an ethos of kindness and gentleness shown between both children and adults. This is evident in the responsible and co-operative behaviour where pupils have the chance to explore and

appreciate the rich outdoor environment. The strong commitment and encouragement for the pupils to respond to the wonder and beauty of God's creation using the school environment clearly strengthens their spiritual development. There are strong links with the local village community and church members have continued during the interregnum. Physical evidence of displays in reception areas and classrooms reflect the Christian Foundation of the school but the Christian ethos could be more explicit with Christian artefacts and a worship table in the hall.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Daily worship is fully inclusive and based upon the school's own three year programme of themes, organised by the co-ordinator with teaching staff who all take part in delivering worship. Acts of worship led by local ministers and visitors are planned as part of the worship programme and enjoyed by the children. Evaluations from the children have brought about more interaction and involvement in worship time which helps in their understanding of life events. Children use their own prayers before lunch and at other times especially when responding to sad and sensitive issues. The Peace Garden satisfies their need to pray and have quiet thoughts. The collective worship taken by the headteacher in the church helped the children to enter respectfully and reverently accompanied by organ music. The Pascal candle used as an illustration of Jesus as 'the light of the world' fully involved the children and encouraged questioning. Singing was enthusiastic and one child happily joined in with known actions to the words. Anglican traditions are encouraged and enjoyed by the regular use of the church building and artefacts. Collective worship on inspection day embraced the 'Held Together Pilgrimage' and the children were able to appreciate the journey of the sculpture and the many people involved in the two hundred year celebration of church schools. The worship time was enhanced by the presence of the sculptor who was leading workshops during the 'Spiritual Art Day' and was able to answer many different questions. Parents and special visitors to the school were warmly welcomed to a final thanksgiving worship time. This celebrated the practical ways in which children had opportunities to reflect upon the presence of God and ask questions and make wishes for the world. Worship contributes significantly to the spiritual and moral development. Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship by school and governors needs to take place more frequently with varied approaches to evaluation.

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

The headteacher, staff and governors are committed to developing and promoting the Christian ethos of the school. The headteacher has worked enthusiastically to strengthen the school ethos with the Foundation governor and the church members during the interregnum. This has been achieved by the headteacher attending services and becoming part of the village community. Parents welcome the Christian education provided by the school and the guidance given and many chose the school for this reason. Cross curricular and religious education teaching enhance the children's knowledge of the community and the appreciation and beauty of God's world. Documentation, the prospectus and website ensure that the reader is aware of the church status of the school. Parents are welcomed and involved in the life of the school and are fully supportive. Parents appreciate this and speak warmly of the inclusive atmosphere. They feel that their views are valued. School council members work well as a team help to improve behaviour, fundraise and suggest improvements to the school.