

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

**Humshaugh Church of England Aided First School**

Humshaugh  
Hexham  
Northumberland  
NE46 4AA

**Diocese: Newcastle**

Local authority: Northumberland County Council  
Dates of inspection: 1 March 2007  
Date of last inspection: 12, 19 March 2002  
School's unique reference number: 122295  
Headteacher: Mrs A.Steele  
Inspector's name and number: The Revd Nicholas Chamberlain, 508

**School context**

Humshaugh Church of England Aided First School is a very small school, drawing its pupils from the surrounding rural area. Socio-economic conditions are above average. Escalating house prices make it difficult for many young families to stay in the villages. In some year groups there are significant proportions of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

**Humshaugh is a good Church of England school with some outstanding qualities**

Humshaugh is a Christian school that seeks to serve its whole community. Its foundation values, especially as reinforced through partnership with the local parish church, give a distinctive welcome and identity. All connected with the school are appreciated for who they are and who they might become.

**Established strengths**

- Excellent church and community links.
- Warm, welcoming, loving ethos, in which detailed knowledge of the children plays a major role.
- Regular and well-prepared worship, delivered by adults who respond to the needs of the children promotes spiritual and personal growth.
- A new approach to assessment in Religious Education, and a new co-ordinator, is delivering increased coherence and progression.

**Focus for development**

- Include children's comments in evaluation of collective worship.
- Continue to implement a wide range of activities in Religious Education as the diocesan syllabus is fully integrated into the school.

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

This is a school in which children are very happy. One child who has experience of another school was particularly positive about now being part of Humshaugh. Academic commitment is matched by outstanding levels of pastoral care and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Children who have left demonstrate continued affection, esteem and support for the school. Parents are also very positive. In an unselfconscious way there is the sense that everyone at Humshaugh is part of the wider body of Christ. As one child wrote in a prayer anthology: 'God wishes, over and over again. Doors would close and open again.' – which I take to be understanding of God's persistent love for us, as confidently experienced in

school.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

The large hall is sensitively used. The children's circle, enclosed by adults, offers a safe place for reflection. The rest of the hall is also used, for example for improvised drama during worship. A tangible rapport exists between children and adults, demonstrated by the way that the children respond to invitations to be involved in different ways. The singing is excellent: spirited, sensitive, full of life. The regular involvement of the parish church and priest is a particularly strong feature. While the adults evaluate school worship formally it would be good also to include the children. The prayer tree, with its attendant worry bag, demonstrates the positive effect of worship in the children's development.

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

The diocesan syllabus is being effectively implemented by the hard-working and dedicated subject co-ordinator. Her recent appointment to deliver religious education throughout the school is good leadership by the head teacher. This brings coherence, and with the new commitment to assessment should pay dividends in terms of progress. All children in both key stages responded positively during lessons. Some children with particular needs were attended to sensitively, while the teacher also sought to encourage those who are more capable of independent work.

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

The head teacher has been in post for two and a half years. During one of these she was acting head-teacher. With the governing body she has moved sensitively and tactfully to tackle necessary areas for development while continuing to build on past firm foundations. All involved in leadership and management use their detailed knowledge of individual children to each child's best advantage. Staff and governors work very hard. After a long conversation I was impressed by the clear picture of the school held by the governors, and by their resolve to improve things. Christian principles of love, forgiveness and the need to value the whole person are demonstrated in the care with which decisions are taken and implemented.

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## Judgement Recording Form (NSJRF)

*This form is to be returned, in electronic form, to the Diocesan Board of Education for the diocese in which the school is situated and the National Society.*

**Date of inspection:** 28 February 2007

**NS Inspector's Number:** 508

**Type of Church school:** VA Humshaugh Church of England Aided First School

**Phase of education:** First

<b>How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?</b>	<b>2</b>
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**Rating 1-4**

<b>How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How effective is the religious education?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education *</b>	<b>Y</b>