



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

Lockhart Road,
Cobham,
Surrey
KT11 2AX

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Guildford

Local authority: Surrey

Date of inspection: 21 April 2015

Date of last inspection: March 2010

School's unique reference number: 125158

Headteacher: Andrew Tulloch

Inspector's name and number: Glyn Willoughby 637

School context

St Andrew's is a larger than average primary school serving the local community of Cobham and surrounding area. The large majority of pupils are of a white British heritage and approximately one in seven speak English as an additional language. The proportion who trigger additional government funding is broadly in line with the national average while the proportion with different levels of special needs is above the national average. The headteacher has been appointed since the last SIAS inspection.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Andrew's Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The Christian leadership and vision of the headteacher in embedding and giving practical expression to the Christian ethos of the school which, with strong support of staff and governors, sustains a vibrant family community that has a significant impact on pupils' achievement and well-being.
- Excellent relationships cultivated by caring staff, built on the inclusive Christian ethos that shape the life of the school and enable pupils to flourish in their personal development and grow into compassionate and responsible young people.
- The close partnership with the church enriches pupils' journeys of personal and spiritual growth.

Areas to improve

- Refine the current practice for evaluating Christian values to gain evidence as to their impact over time.
- Expand the leadership role of pupils in the collective worship programme to increase their involvement in planning and leading worship.

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

St Andrew's is a welcoming and inclusive Christian community that provides genuine care and nurture for all pupils, both socially and academically. This is evident from the moment you step through the door and meet confident, friendly pupils and staff whose dedication is obvious. The Christian ethos is deeply embedded and in the words of the chair of governors, 'is the golden thread running through our school'.

Parents spoken to praise the family atmosphere in which their children 'look out for each other'. They describe the Christian ethos as 'underpinning everything' and how the headteacher and staff make the ethos evident through modelling key Christian values, building an ethos of trust and self-esteem. As a result, relationships are excellent and pupils flourish in their personal development, well-being and academic achievement. It also has a positive impact on their behaviour and their empathy with the wider community. The school now plans to refine the current practice for evaluating Christian values to gain evidence as to their impact over time.

Pupils speak of how staff 'make learning fun and challenging'. Trusting relationships between pupils and staff result in pupils being energised to want to learn and succeed. A stimulating curriculum including an extensive range of activities, clubs and trips enables a seven year journey of personal and spiritual growth and development, enriched through the Christian character of the school.

Religious education (RE) contributes significantly to the school as a spiritual environment, fosters a respect for other faiths and provides the opportunity for pupils to develop a spiritual vocabulary to enable them to explore their personal response to 'big questions' with increased confidence. In a Key Stage 2 RE lesson recognising the value of human life, skilful teaching challenged pupils as they discussed what human beings need to be happy and healthy. The positive attitude demonstrated their enjoyment for the subject and thoughtful responses confirmed the contribution of RE to spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth. The skills developed in RE ensure that they benefit from the planned opportunities for spiritual and moral development in other subjects.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Distinctively Christian worship is an important part of the school day because of the impact it has on pupils' spiritual development and their understanding of how Christian values can have a personal meaning for them.

The well-planned programme enables them to explore the meaning of different Christian values and also gain an appreciation of Anglican practice through participation in major Christian festivals celebrated in church. These occasions, together with daily rituals within school worship, enable pupils to develop a growing understanding of church tradition and also of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They enjoy worship, recognise its importance in the life of the school and can explain what it means to them personally. They look forward to the weekly worship led by the Rector and his team, who deepen understanding of the meaning of key Christian values through acting out stories from the Bible. Recognition at 'Celebration assemblies' for those who have lived out the meaning of a particular Christian value provides positive reinforcement for promoting the school's Christian ethos.

There is a strong bond of trust and partnership between Church and school and this relationship creates a secure environment in which pupils of all faiths or none, feel able to confidently explore and discuss their thoughts and ideas.

In the worship observed, led by the headteacher, the outstanding nature of singing and music set a spiritual atmosphere for worship that embraced everyone. The calm atmosphere during a period of prayer and reflection that followed showed how pupils use this time to be alone with their own thoughts.

A prayer club and reflective spaces throughout the school encourage and provide opportunities for pupils to pray and reflect upon the relevance for them of the Christian values. This was an area for development arising from the previous inspection and has been effectively addressed.

Systematic evaluation of the worship programme involves pupils whose comments are then built into refining planning. The school now intends to expand the leadership role of pupils to increase their involvement in planning and leading worship.

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

The strong Christian leadership of the headteacher has a significant impact upon the success of this inspiring church school. Together with governors and fully supported by the leadership team, collectively they have a clear vision of the way Christian values are lived out in the daily life of the school and impact upon pupils' personal and spiritual development. All staff are valued and are effective role models in their care and respect for each other. This results in a family atmosphere where everyone is valued and responds accordingly.

Governors have a clear view of the strengths of the school and ensure that a programme of formal and informal self-evaluation monitors the effectiveness as a church school and informs development planning. There is no sense of complacency and governors' effectiveness is enhanced through a close working relationship with the leadership team, built on professional trust and high expectations. They value the importance of sustaining and developing the rich Christian heritage of the school into the future and support the headteacher in actively encouraging professional development. Staff and governor training that includes focusing on the significance of the school's Christian values, is very effective in promoting the spiritual dimension of the school.

The Rector and parish team play a key role in maintaining and deepening the partnership between church and school with the resulting strengthening of the school's leadership. The leadership of worship and religious education is given a high priority, resulting in extremely effective practice in both areas.

Successful partnerships with parents, church, Diocese and the wider and global community, including charities, enable pupils to benefit from the range of links, as well as fund raising. Parents speak highly of how the school is led and managed, actively contribute to school life and describe how inclusive staff enable their children to live out the meaning of the school motto 'life in all its fullness'.

The school meets the statutory requirements for Collective Worship and RE.

SIAMS report, April 2015. St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Lockhart Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2AX.