



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Christ Church Church of England Primary School

Pine Gardens
Surbiton
Surrey
KT5 8LJ

Previous SIAMS grade: outstanding

Diocese: Southwark

Local authority: Kingston

Dates of inspection: 1 December 2014

Date of last inspection: 30 November & 3 December 2009

School's unique reference number: 102586

Headteacher: Tracey Coton

Inspector's name and number: John Ross 476

School context

This is a much larger than average primary school. An additional building has recently opened, as a result of the expansion of pupil numbers. Just over one third of pupils are from minority ethnic groups. Around 17% of pupils speak English as an additional language. The number of pupils who have an existing church connection on entry is low. Two staff joined the senior leadership team in April 2014 to work alongside the established headteacher.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Christ Church Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The outstanding and inclusive Christian ethos, based on shared Christian values, underpins every aspect of school life
- Inspirational and inclusive collective worship has a strong impact on relationships, behaviour and pupils' spiritual development
- High pupil achievement in Religious Education (RE) resulting from excellent teaching and learning opportunities, showing creativity, imagination and high expectations
- The outstanding Christian leadership of the headteacher, senior staff and foundation governors who live out and promote a vision rooted in distinctively Christian values

Areas to improve

- Build on the existing opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship themselves in order to enable pupils to have greater ownership of this area of school life
- Increase the professional development opportunities relating to church school distinctiveness in order to identify and prepare future church school leaders

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

The school mission statement, 'Where every child of God matters', is lived out in its daily life. Pupils, staff and all stakeholders are totally familiar with the school's Christian values. They can readily explain their roots in Christian biblical teaching and how they influence relationships, decisions and behaviour. These values are honesty, forgiveness, love for all, celebration, fairness and being thankful. One pupil described these as 'the way we should live for God.' Pupils can readily articulate the Christian distinctiveness of their school, by pointing out the Christian symbolism to be found everywhere, such as the cross on the school logo and school uniform. The school environment makes an outstanding contribution to pupils' spiritual development. There are many attractive displays illustrating Christian belief and tradition in classrooms, corridors and common areas such as the hall. Outside there is a prayer garden, designed by pupils and well used by them for times of quietness and reflection. All members of the school community are recognised as special in the sight of God and are treated as unique individuals. Consequently, achievement and attendance are high. There are well established procedures to provide additional support for any who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. As a result, there are no significant differences in progress between groups. The school's Christian values are embedded through the whole curriculum, leading to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) being outstanding. Collective worship, RE and a wide range of out of hours clubs and activities reinforce this. The behaviour policy is rooted in forgiveness and refers to Fruits of the Spirit. Pupils fully understand this and respect others, which is why their behaviour is exemplary. There is strong support for community projects through charitable giving. The school sponsors a child in Malawi, strengthening pupils' understanding of other cultures and Christianity as a multicultural world faith.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is the focal point in school life. It is regarded by pupils and staff as a special time of coming together to show reverence for God, whether through quiet reflection or joyful celebration. One pupil described it as a time when 'God is with us'. Worship is inspirational and inclusive, so that every person, of whatever background or belief, can see its relevance to their wider life. Pupils have a very extensive knowledge of Bible stories and can relate these to school values and the way they live their own lives. Pupils have an extensive knowledge of the Christian liturgical calendar and the significance of times such as Advent, Ash Wednesday and Pentecost. Liturgical colours to match the seasons of the church's year are used. During the inspection a cross, candle and an Advent Wreath provided a focal point. These, together with liturgical greetings and set prayers give pupils an understanding of the Anglican tradition. This is a successful response to the last inspection. Clergy from the local church visit regularly to lead worship. Visitors from other Anglican churches and Christian denominations help to increase pupils' understanding of different Anglican and Christian traditions. Pupils have a well developed understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit which is appropriate for their age. Collective worship takes place in a variety of formats, including whole school, key stage and class worship. Leadership of collective worship is outstanding. The coordinator provides resources for teachers to use with their classes which link with the theme for whole school worship. Pupils, staff and governors all participate in self-evaluation. For example, there is a pupil faith group which meets regularly with the worship coordinator and gives feedback on collective worship. Pupils enjoy worship. They say they like the time of quiet reflection, the singing and the participation. In an act of collective worship for the whole school pupils were observed to be enthusiastic participants. Some pupils presented a parable while others performed a liturgical dance, which was created by a pupil. This is an excellent example of pupils showing leadership in worship. The school has plans to increase such opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship themselves. Prayer is important in the life of the school. Formal set prayers such as the Lord's Prayer are used as well as prayers said in class at key points in the school day.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

RE makes a major contribution to the distinctive Christian character of this school. A focus from the previous inspection was to embed the new RE schemes of work and assess their impact on teaching and learning. The school has responded successfully and wholeheartedly to this recommendation. The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education RE syllabus is now used for all classes. The learning focus for each lesson is specific and measurable. Assessment opportunities are identified and attainment tracked. Achievement across the school is consistently high and comparable with other core subjects within the school and above national expectations for RE. Pupil behaviour in RE is excellent. All pupils are enthusiastically engaged during lessons. Teaching and learning in all lessons is always at least good, with a significant proportion being outstanding. During the inspection an impressive variety of creative and imaginative teaching and learning styles was observed. For example, in a Year 4 class the teacher challenged pupils to respond thoughtfully to the Christmas story. Pupils were able to choose from a variety of activities, including drawing, modelling, drama and discussion to devise their own thoughtful questions about the Nativity, which were then shared. Such activities give pupils the independence to think for themselves, take the initiative in their learning and work constructively with others. Pupils have an impressive knowledge of religious vocabulary which they use with confidence. They are able to take religious ideas and then apply them to their own personal experience, supporting their own spiritual development. The syllabus provides pupils with a very broad understanding of Christianity. Pupils also learn about other major world religions, promoting their understanding of and respect for diverse communities. Subject leadership is outstanding. The subject leader has a high level of expertise, excellent organisational skills and ambitious expectations for all pupils and staff.

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

The headteacher lives out and promotes a vision for the school based on Christian values. She has the full support of committed and effective senior leaders, foundation governors and the incumbent. This Christian vision is understood by pupils, parents and staff and so has a positive impact on every aspect of school life. Consequently, all pupils achieve well, attendance is high, relationships are strong and pupils and staff are happy. There are close and fruitful links with the parish church of Christ Church. The vicar regularly leads collective worship, attends meetings of the faith group and participates in lessons, for example a Year 6 lesson about Pentecost. This is a successful response to a recommendation from the previous inspection. Other church members and staff also support the school, for example through leading a weekly Bible Club. Christians of other denominations also visit the school to lead collective worship. Year 6 pupils attend the Leavers' Service at Southwark Cathedral, which further contributes to their understanding of the Anglican tradition. The diocese provides excellent support for the school. The governing body is highly effective, providing the right balance of support and challenge. The governing body is committed to achieving the Bishop's Certificate in Church School Governance, strengthening their role in promoting the church school identity. Governors know the school well. Along with all stakeholders they are fully involved in self-evaluation and development planning. Self-evaluation is insightful, accurate and thorough. Development planning is challenging and realistic. Staff recognise the school's special and distinctive Christian ethos. Professional development of staff is strong but the school has not identified potential leaders in order to encourage them to train for future leadership of church schools. Parents are delighted with the school and are very supportive. The Prayer and Pastries sessions offer parents the chance to contribute to the spiritual and distinctly Christian character of the school. There are good links with local schools including church schools. The experienced headteacher mentors newly appointed headteachers of other schools. Arrangements for RE and collective worship meet statutory requirements.