



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Reigate Parish Church School

Blackborough Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7DB

Diocese: Southwark

Local authority: Surrey
Dates of inspection: 8 May 2013
Date of last inspection: 7 and 9 July 2008
School's unique reference number: 125196
Headteacher: Frances Davis
Inspector's name and number: Barbara Chevis 794

School context

Reigate Parish Church School is a two form entry Infant school of 180 pupils. 50% of the pupils are from church families. The majority of pupils are White British, reflecting the community served by the school. The number of pupils with learning difficulties is below the national average as is the number of pupils with English as an additional language and those eligible for free school meals.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Reigate Parish Church School as a Church of England school are outstanding

This outstanding Church of England school provides a high quality of education for its learners. The school has a strong, distinctive Christian character which pervades all areas of school life. This enhances the quality of relationships and the learning experience for all. The leadership of the school is very strong at all levels and there is a determination to continuously improve whilst ensuring that the Christian ethos remains central.

Established strengths

- The centrality of Christian values which provides a strong framework for all that is undertaken in the school.
- The nurturing Christian ethos which has a positive impact upon personal development.
- The vision and partnership of the headteacher, local clergy and chair of governors which provides clear leadership for the school as a Christian community.

Focus for development

- To review the monitoring schedule for collective worship to ensure it is rigorous and robust

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

Christian values permeate throughout the school, underpinning daily life and making a significant impact upon achievement and pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Inclusion is strong and academic standards are high, with all groups of pupils making better than expected progress. Staff training delivered by the clergy has ensured that values are distinctly Christian in character. All members of the school community are able to talk about the values in a real and purposeful manner, evidencing the impact of these values in their lives. Stakeholders state 'our faith is at the heart of all we do' and this is seen in the outstanding relationships between all members of the school community who talk openly about their faith. Understanding of Christian values, rooted in biblical teaching, has resulted in good behaviour with pupils having respect for each other. Passages from the Bible are used to support the teaching of values in collective worship and RE, enabling learners to make links, and impacts significantly on the way learners relate to one another. This shows their developing social, moral and cultural awareness. Governors and parents show a high level of commitment and passion towards the school. Parents participate in a monthly prayer group and governors also pray regularly, reflecting their support and concern for the whole school community. They speak positively about the school's distinctive nurturing and ethos, where every child is supported to achieve their very best. A wide range of experiences is offered to pupils through a creative curriculum which allows them to reflect upon and respond to different beliefs and communities. RE lessons are used to promote a good understanding of Christian beliefs throughout the world as seen by the display of art work illustrating churches in other countries of the world.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is distinctly Christian. It is firmly based on Christian values, with a different value being the focus every half term. Pupils are fully engaged in worship and state that they enjoy 'prayers, singing and learning about God'. Singing is of a very high standard as evidenced in the four part round sung with great confidence. The act of worship observed was inclusive, with Makaton signing being used by staff and pupils. The singing of the Grace at the end of the worship was especially moving and evoked a wonderful sense of community and belonging. This also reinforced pupils' understanding of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Members of the school community engage well with collective worship with clergy from a number of churches and members of staff leading worship on a weekly basis. The clergy also have a high involvement in the planning of collective worship and as a result there is a clear focus on the use of the Bible and Anglican traditions. This has led to pupils' deepening awareness of Christian festivals and biblical language. Monitoring and subsequent staff training by the clergy has led to increased confidence of staff when leading collective worship. Governors have observed acts of worship led by the headteacher but other staff leading collective worship have not had the benefit of formal feedback. Therefore the full impact of the training has not been identified. Staff, pupils and parents are encouraged, through an annual questionnaire, to give their views on collective worship. Outcomes are positive and comments acted upon leading to improvements in the Christian element of worship. For example, class assemblies now have a more overtly Christian emphasis and the Headteacher has provided clear guidelines for staff leading worship. Prayer plays a major part in the life of the school. Pupils are encouraged to say prayers throughout the day and volunteer eagerly to say impromptu prayers in collective worship. These are thoughtful and reflective, showing their increasing spiritual development. Reflection areas in all classes are well used by pupils for prayer and quiet contemplation and support their spiritual development. A communion service has also been introduced at the end of some staff inset days, and these have been increasingly well attended. Members of staff find these services affirming and support their understanding of the school as a family of God as well as their own spiritual development.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Achievement of learners is high and improving. Expectations are that standards in RE will be

in line with that of reading and writing (well above national expectations) by the end of the summer term. Data, book scrutiny and discussions with pupils confirm high standards and show that clear practices and procedures in place to support the school's expectations are having the required impact. Progress of all groups of learners is rapid. Changes to assessment, as a result of a lesson study, have also ensured teachers are more confident in their judgements of progress. Pupils show interest and engagement in their lessons. Many show a deep level of Christian knowledge and understanding, and have a good understanding of other faiths and practices as a result of a rich and creative curriculum. Pupils talk confidently about Jesus and God. Observations confirm that teaching and learning in RE is at least good with the majority of lessons being outstanding. Teachers use resources well and strong questioning supports good learning. Excellent use is made of talk partners and technical vocabulary to ensure pupils have time to reflect on their ideas and make outstanding progress. Books evidence high standards and work is well matched to ability allowing all pupils to access tasks at an appropriate level and make rapid progress. Pupils are encouraged to relate their learning to their own experiences and this supports their social, spiritual and moral awareness very effectively. RE has a very high profile in the school and is well led by experienced senior leaders. There are clear links between RE and collective worship through the teaching of Christian values, and both make a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of pupils. Pupils are able to articulate the impact that the values have in their lives.

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

All leaders show a real commitment to Christian values and this shines through in all they do and say. They are committed to high standards and pupils are supported, both academically, spiritually and socially to achieve this. Governors constantly support and challenge leadership on the effectiveness of the school as a church school. The Christian character of the school is explicit and as one parent stated, 'there is no other school like this' when talking about the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Leaders show care and consideration for all members of the school community, supporting them as appropriate. The school vision is clear and evident in all documentation, and included prominently on the school website with the result that all members of the community are constantly reminded about the values of the school. All areas of the curriculum are reviewed in line with the vision as a result of which the teaching of all subjects is rooted in Christian values. RE and worship are led by the headteacher and deputy headteacher, showing the high priority these areas are given within the school. Staff are supported well to develop their skills as future leaders of a church school, and are given opportunities to lead within the school. They are also encouraged to attend professional development training to extend their knowledge and understanding of leadership in a Church school. An area for development in the previous SIAMS inspection was to maintain standards by the induction of new staff and governors into the distinctiveness and ethos of a church school. Induction of new staff and governors has improved. Since the last SIAMS inspection, relationships between the church and the school have strengthened through greater use of the church by the school. For example a baptism of a teddy in church helped to develop pupils' understanding of this ceremony. Weekly visits to the school by clergy have supported the delivery of collective worship. The involvement of the incumbent in planning has ensured Anglican traditions are embedded in the school. The school has good systems in place which give them capacity for improvement as a church school.

SIAMS report May 2013 Reigate Parish Church School, Blackborough Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7DB