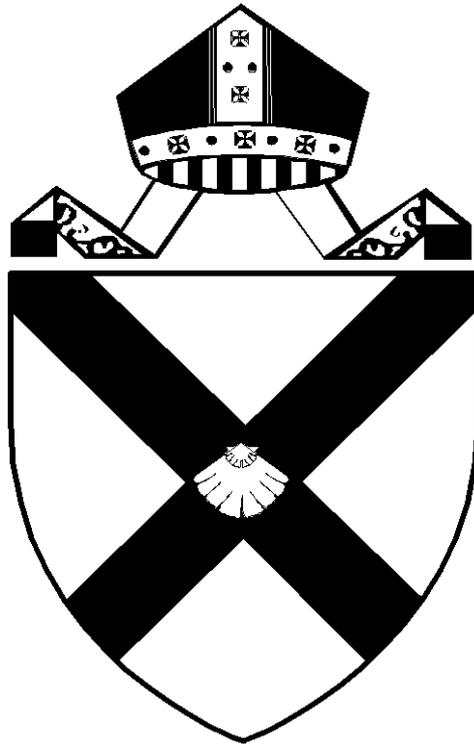


STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2012



Bredhurst Church of England Primary School

Voluntary Controlled

Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JY.

Kent CC

Unique Reference No: 118619

Headteacher: Mrs. Jane Shields

Chair of Governors: Mrs. Julie Robson

Incumbent: The Revd. Bonnie Appleton

Inspector: Ms Jan Thompson

Inspection: 12th January 2012

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Bredhurst Voluntary Controlled CE Primary School

Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JY

Diocese: Rochester

Local authority: Kent

Dates of inspection: 12 January 2012

Date of last inspection: 9 February 2009

School's unique reference number: 118619

Headteacher: Jane Shields

Inspector's name and number: Jan Thompson No 92

School context

Bredhurst Church of England Primary School is a small village school of 116 pupils drawn from the immediate locality. Pupils are mostly White British with a below average proportion eligible for free school meals. An above average percentage of pupils have special educational needs. About 25 per cent of pupils are regular Sunday churchgoers. The school is very successful and Ofsted recently identified all aspects of the school as outstanding. The present headteacher only took up post in January 2012.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bredhurst CE Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

Bredhurst Church of England Primary School has improved since its last inspection and is now an outstanding Church School with a very strong Christian ethos that permeates all aspects of school life.

Established strengths

- The impact of Christian faith on the whole life of the school
- The high standards and impact of Religious Education on all pupils
- The strong, mutual support between church and school

Focus for development

- Clearly identify the core Christian values of the school in the Mission Statement and Prospectus.

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

The Christian faith underpins the whole ethos of this school and pupils talk about God being with them in all that they do. Members of the school show care and respect for each other, the environment and the wider world. This results in excellent behaviour and relationships at all levels throughout the school. The school's behaviour policy is based on Christian forgiveness and a fresh start. Pupils learn to be responsible citizens and are keen to support charities to help others in need. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent. Religious Education (RE) plays a large part in this and gives pupils a very good knowledge and understanding of Christianity and of other religions. A unit used for 'Bible Explorers', run by the curate, has been particularly popular and successful with Year 5/6. RE now puts a strong emphasis on relating the religious content to pupils' own lives, which is an improvement since the last inspection. RE is an outstanding and very popular subject. Pupils talk openly about religious beliefs and are encouraged to ask probing questions. Collective worship also contributes very well to spiritual and moral development and teachers make good links to this, where appropriate, in their lessons. Vibrant, attractive displays adorn the school building, with a good representation on RE and the Christian faith. All classrooms have a focal area for prayer, with a prayer tree, for example, in the Early Years class and prayer boxes elsewhere. Pupils value this Christian environment and make use of the opportunities for prayer. The school is considering the possibility of developing an outdoor spiritual area.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.

All pupils enjoy daily collective worship and fully engage with it. They enjoy using their own prayers for worship, which they do in their classrooms at the end of each day and when their class leads morning worship. They assemble and leave collective worship in silence and use this time for quiet reflection as music is played. Pupils know that worship is 'to show respect to God' and 'to think about God'. They also relate what they learn to their own lives and say that worship is 'to understand what God is trying to say to us' and that 'it teaches us how to live a good life.' In the act of worship during the inspection, led by the Rector, each individual's value to God and to each other was affirmed. Clergy lead worship at least once a week and pupils are familiar with a range of Anglican tradition and practice. Worship follows the seasons and festivals of the Church's Year, with the major festivals celebrated in St Peter's Church in Bredhurst. This included Pentecost for the first time last summer, and a young boy remembered that it celebrates 'when the disciples received the Holy Spirit and spread the Word of God.' Worship is well planned, prepared and delivered and is now better resourced than at the last inspection. All teachers attend daily collective worship, which was an issue at the last inspection, and they take turns in leading it. Some acts of worship are formally monitored and pupils also discuss improvements with their class teachers. A recent diocesan course on worship has enthused the worship leaders to introduce some new ideas and to enable pupils to take more of a leadership role.

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

The governing body has addressed the issues from the last inspection and has taken a fuller role in the on-going monitoring and evaluation of the church aspects of the school. Christian beliefs and values are embedded in the life of the school and representatives of all stakeholders can speak with confidence about their impact. For example, one parent commented on how well pupils cope with bereavement because of their Christian teaching about life after death. However, school documentation, such as the Mission Statement and prospectus, does not identify clearly the core Christian values of the school and explain the school's distinctiveness as a church school. The governing body has only recently appointed a new headteacher and it was committed to finding a suitable leader for this Christian school. The new headteacher has very quickly picked up on improvements that can be made and has taken over as RE and Collective Worship co-ordinator. There is a very strong partnership between church and school. The team rector, based at St Matthew's, Wigmore, is on the governing body and fully involved in the life and worship of the school. The other Foundation governor is from St.Peter's, Bredhurst, which is used by the school and where her husband is a Self Supporting Minister. A Sunday morning family service is held every six weeks in the school building and school members are encouraged to attend with their families. Some of the older pupils are also regular members of the choir at St Peter's. Links with the Diocese have always been good. The school is booked in for the Church Schools Festival this year and the Rector will prepare them for the Eucharist service there. The new headteacher will be attending the Diocesan conference next month.