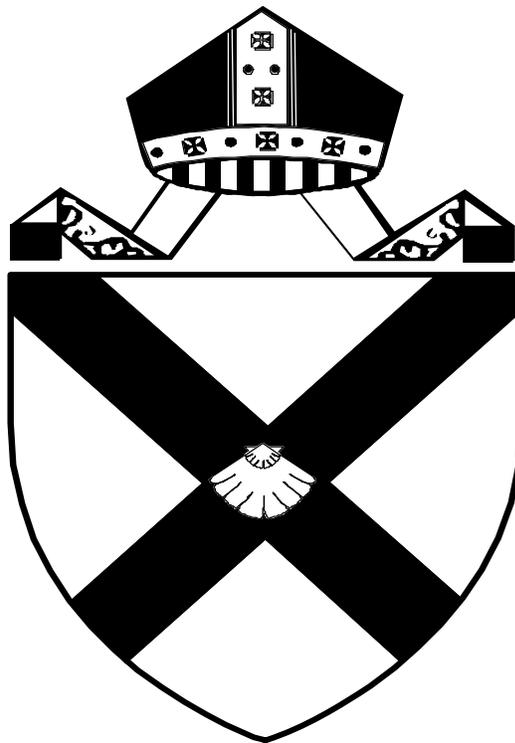


# STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

## ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2011



**Churchill Church of England Primary School**

Rysted Lane, Westerham

Voluntary Controlled

Kent LA

Unique Reference No: 118616

Head Teacher: Mrs. Judy Duffield

Chair of Governors & Incumbent:

Rev. Paul McVeagh

Inspector: Ms. Jan Thompson. N.S.no.92

Inspection: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011

## **SUMMARY JUDGEMENT**

Churchill Church of England Primary School in Westerham has improved since its last inspection in July 2009 and maintained its status as an outstanding Church School. Christianity is now embedded in the life of the school and is having an observable impact.

**Grade 1: OUTSTANDING**

### **School Context**

Churchill Church of England Primary School mainly serves the town of Westerham in Kent, where it is the only primary school. Its 270 pupils are mostly White British with a wide socio-economic mix. About 5 per cent of pupils are regular Sunday church goers. Ofsted identified many good aspects of the school, including teaching, pupils' achievement and behaviour.

### **Established Strengths**

- The very strong Christian leadership and support from stakeholders
- The embedded Christian values of the school
- The prayer life of the school community

### **Focus for Development**

- Continue to improve the self-evaluation process to ensure the future development of this school as a Church School.

**How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners? Grade 1: Outstanding**

The school's new Mission Statement accurately reflects the way that Christian faith and practice are integral to the life of this school. It is a prayerful community 'where faith, love, hope and truth flourish'. Pupils gain very good knowledge and understanding of Christianity, and their spiritual and moral development are strong. In Religious Education (RE), pupils ask questions and talk openly about their own beliefs as well as showing respect for others. In Collective Worship, pupils understand the importance of spending time in quiet reflection and communication with God. In a recent questionnaire to parents, comments included 'She speaks about Jesus most days.' and 'He talks about God all the time.' Pupils raise money for a variety of charities and have recently linked with churches in Uganda through Tearfund, to support rural communities with safe water and sanitation. They understand that they are following Jesus' example because 'Jesus helped people' and that Christians should be involved in practical projects like this and 'not just religious stuff'. Christian concern to care for others results in excellent relationships throughout the school and excellent pupil behaviour. The school environment promotes spiritual development very well. The hall has been transformed with Christian artwork, some of which was done to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible this year. At the time of inspection there were attractive interactive Advent displays in all classrooms in addition to the permanent class prayer areas. The entrance hall has a prayer table that is well used by pupils. Last year's School Council asked to have a similar area in the school grounds, and consequently the development of a spiritual garden is in progress.

## **What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?**

### **Grade 1: Outstanding**

Prayer is at the heart of this school and pupils give thanks before lunch and pray at the end of the day, as well as collecting together for the main daily worship. Pupils appreciate the quiet, reflective atmosphere of daily Collective Worship. One girl said that she likes 'sitting and thinking about God.' They assemble and leave in silence and are receptive and engaged throughout. They said that they like singing and hearing Bible stories. They understand the symbolism of the candle, which reminds them of Jesus. They particularly appreciate the way that pupils read out some of the prayers from their prayer-box. They enjoy it when a class leads worship once a week and would like more opportunities to take a lead in worship. Pupils are familiar with a range of Anglican traditions and practices because of the different churchmanship represented on the governing body. The Vicar takes Collective Worship once a week and pupils regularly celebrate festivals in St Mary's Church. Year 6 pupils enjoy taking part in a Eucharist service at Rochester Cathedral for the Church Schools Festival and appreciate the opportunity for a personal blessing. Collective Worship is well planned and prepared so that it is of a high quality. It is based on Bible stories and the Church's calendar, with the symbolism of the Advent ring being the focus for worship during the inspection.

## **How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school? Grade 2: Good**

The governing body has addressed the issues from the last inspection, although a full church-school questionnaire to parents has only recently been sent out. RE has been very well led since the last inspection and is now of a good standard. The RE subject leader, who is also an assistant headteacher, is exploring Diocesan training opportunities for leadership in Church schools. The school's new Mission Statement clearly identifies its core Christian values and a wide range of stakeholders has been involved in the process of developing this. The results of the parent questionnaire show a good awareness of what it means to be a Church school and a very positive response to this. The school's ongoing self-evaluation as a Church school is competently led by its Church School Committee and fully shared with the governing body. This highlights areas for development, which are reflected in the school improvement plan and so bring about ongoing improvements. A current emphasis is on furthering the links between school and ordinary members of St. Mary's Church. The relationship between church and school continues to be very strong, particularly on the governing body where the Vicar is now the chair of governors. The headteacher is a chorister at the church and gives a very strong Christian lead in the school. It is a pity that the church can no longer afford to employ a youth worker and this has had a negative impact on the school, since he contributed to school worship, acted as school chaplain and ran a church youth club that was very well attended by pupils. However, about 5% of pupils still attend Sunday School and many pupils are present with their parents for special Sunday services such as a recent Christmas Shoebox service for Samaritan's Purse. About three quarters of school families also support the special school services held in the church five times a year.