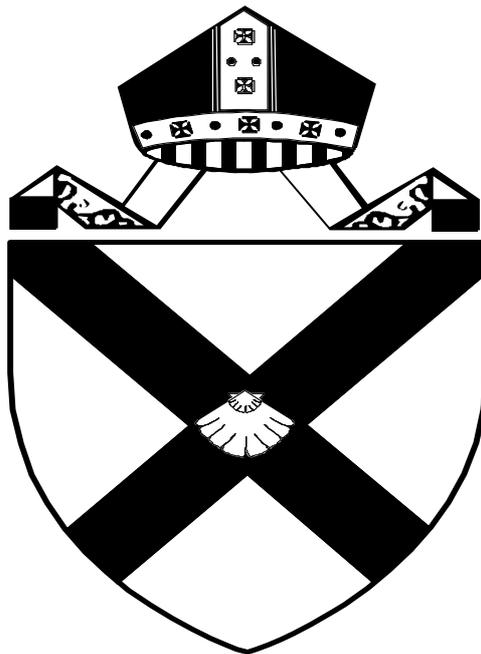


# STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

## ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2010



**Crockham Hill Church of England  
Primary School**

**Voluntary Controlled**

Crockham Hill, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6RP

Unique Reference No:118615

Kent LA

Head Teacher: Mrs. Valerie Viret

Chair of Governors & Incumbent:

Revd. Bob Jones

Inspector: Ms Jan Thompson (NS 92)

Inspection: 15 July 2010

## SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

### How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?

Crockham Hill Church of England Primary School continues to be a good Church school.

**GRADE 2: GOOD**

### SCHOOL CONTEXT

Crockham Hill is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School situated in a small, rural Kent village near Edenbridge. Its 137 pupils are drawn from a wide catchment area, with 20 percent coming from the village itself. They are mostly from White British families and from relatively advantaged backgrounds. A quarter of pupils come from regular worshipping Church families. The school is very successful and oversubscribed (Ofsted continues to judge it to be an outstanding school). The original Victorian building has been expanded on the same site, next door to the village church of Holy Trinity; and since the last inspection a beautiful new hall has been added.

### ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS

- The friendly, caring Christian ethos.
- The good quality Collective Worship.
- The Christian leadership of the Head Teacher, well supported by the Governing Body.
- The close links with the Vicar and the parish church.

### FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Involve all stakeholders, particularly pupils, in monitoring and evaluating the school as a church school.
- Make better use of the classroom environment to promote Christian spiritual development. (This was an issue at the last inspection.)
- Develop a mission statement and aims that are more distinctive of a Church School. (This was an issue at the last inspection.)

### How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners? **Grade 2: Good**

Crockham Hill Church of England Primary School is a friendly, Christian community, where visitors are made very welcome. The Christian ethos of the school was summed up by the headteacher as doing the right thing, being kind to others and being friends with God. Pupils say that they learn from Jesus' teaching, in Collective Worship for example, to be kind to others. Consequently relationships are good at all levels and pupils behave well and care for one another. They also see their charitable efforts as an expression of this Christian teaching. Teachers reinforce the importance of treating others with respect. Religious Education focuses on learning from religion as well as learning about it, and this makes a good contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions and to think hard about what they have learnt. The school environment is inspiring in many ways. Pupils appreciate worshipping in the church next door, at their special festivals. They also benefit from beautiful school grounds, with an area where pupils can go to be quiet. There has been some development since the last inspection in terms of high quality Christian displays around the school and a striking cross in the new school hall. However, nothing has yet been done to develop areas for reflection in the classrooms, as suggested at the last inspection.

## **What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?**

### **Grade 2: Good**

Collective worship is an important part of the school day and is of a high quality. Pupils behave and participate very well. They sing particularly well, accompanied on the piano, and think of the Christian songs as a type of prayer. Since the last inspection, the school has introduced more frequent times for reflection or private prayer, to improve the opportunities it gives both pupils and staff for spiritual development. This was a focus for development at the last inspection. Year 3/4 pupils said that worship was helpful because it made them think, helped them to pray, and taught them about Jesus. Other classes have not yet been formally asked their opinions, and older pupils expressed some dissatisfaction with it; but the vicar is impressed by the perceptive comments often made by pupils during his question and answer sessions. Worship is Anglican in character, being planned by the headteacher in consultation with the vicar and organised around the church's year. For example, one week's theme was on the Holy Spirit, following Pentecost. Pupils particularly enjoy the special services that are celebrated in the church six times a year, where they take a role in leading the worship. The vicar takes collective worship once a week, and regularly uses the Lord's Prayer. Anglican greetings and responses are also used on other days of the week.

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

The school benefits from a strong Christian leadership team of the headteacher, vicar and two other Foundation Governors. In this small school, where staff have to take on multiple responsibilities, the headteacher is also an effective collective worship co-ordinator and RE subject leader. The new local agreed syllabus for RE has been successfully implemented, using the Canterbury Diocesan scheme. Standards of teaching and learning are good or better, with a wide variety of approach and resources used in lessons. However, no use is made of visits to places of worship other than the local church. Teachers use the level descriptions in their planning, but assessment currently only takes place at the end of the year. The vicar is also the chair of governors and is therefore heavily committed to the school and helps to cement the strong links with the church. The Christian leadership team has attended training on the new expectations of church schools and made some improvements since the last inspection. For instance, the school's welcome pack to new parents now contains some suitable Scripture Union booklets. However, the new hall building has taken up a lot of their time and prevented them from dealing with all the recommendations of the last inspection. They have not yet reviewed the Mission Statement nor involved parents and pupils in regular, formal evaluations of the school as a church school. They have, however, maintained the school as a good church school, and it continues to be an important part of the Christian life in the village, where there is a strong sense of community.