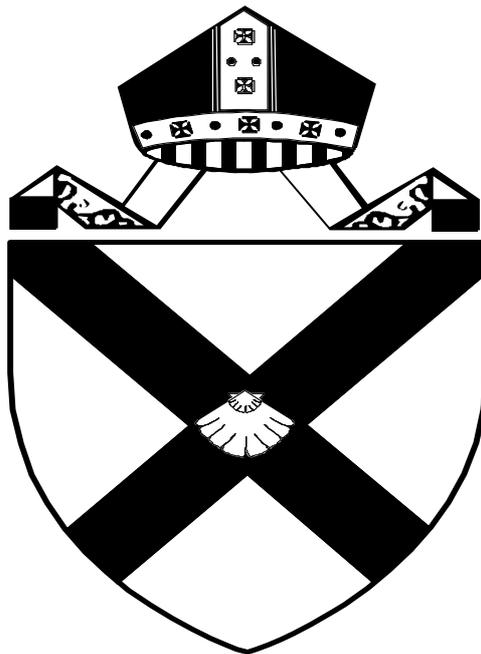


# STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

## ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2009



**Cudham Church of England  
Primary School**

**Voluntary Controlled**

Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent TN16 3AX

Unique Reference No: 101646

Bromley LA

Head Teacher: Mrs. Pamela Scott

Chair of Governors: Mr. Neil Meeson

Incumbent: Vacancy

Inspector: Ms Jan Thompson (NS 92)

Inspection: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009

## **SUMMARY JUDGEMENT**

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

Cudham Church of England Primary School is a good Church School.

**Grade 2: GOOD**

### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

Cudham is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School in a rural setting on the outskirts of Biggin Hill in Kent. It is a very small school of 61 pupils, drawn from the locality or the wider Biggin Hill area. They are almost entirely White British and just over 10 per cent of pupils are from church families. Many parents choose the school because it is small and has a reputation for giving pupils personal attention. The percentage of pupils with special educational needs is higher than average and these pupils make very good progress. Ofsted judged the school to be good. Most pupils make good progress and achieve broadly average standards by the end of Year 6.

### **ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS**

- Pupils' very good spiritual and moral development
- High quality Collective Worship
- Pupils' good knowledge and understanding of Christianity

### **FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- Year 5/6 pupils should attend the Church Schools Festival and learn about the Eucharist. (This was a 'Focus for Development' at the last inspection.)
- The governing body should ensure that monitoring and evaluation are part of an on-going process to improve the school as a church school.

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

Cudham Church of England Primary School is a small, friendly school with a Christian ethos based on love, care and respect. These values are in the school motto, where they are related to the teaching of Jesus. They result in a welcoming community where behaviour and relationships are very good. Pupils' spiritual development is good: they readily talk about prayer and have a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity. Pupils' moral development is also good and is well supported by both Collective Worship and RE. One example of this was the RE Christmas unit on Homelessness in Year 5/6. Pupils learnt about the homeless and researched some of the charities that help them. They were challenged to consider different viewpoints, showed selfless compassion, and became involved in practical action. The hall has recently been refurbished and Christian displays have been improved, as recommended at the last inspection. There are also displays of pupils' prayers in each classroom, but these are generally not interactive. A special conservation garden has recently been completed in honour of Emma Darwin, and pupils use it as a quiet area during lunchtime.

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

### **Grade 2: Good**

Daily Collective Worship is of a high standard and has improved since the last inspection. It is now based on a Christian scheme from Canterbury Diocese, which ensures good use of the Bible and the Church's calendar. However, pupils do not know about the major Christian festival of Pentecost. All teachers and teaching assistants now attend daily Collective Worship, which creates the feeling of a family gathering together for this important activity. Pupils are engaged during worship and respond to it well. They especially like singing, which they do very well for a small school. They also like praying and hearing Bible stories. However, pupils do not yet have sufficient opportunities to lead worship. They have a good understanding of worship as speaking to God and 'learning more about what Jesus taught us to do.' One pupil described singing as 'like a prayer to God.' Pupils are familiar with some aspects of Anglican practice, such as the regular use of responses at the beginning and end of each act of worship. However, they have not yet been introduced to the Holy Communion service, nor taken part in the Church Schools Festival in Rochester Cathedral, which was a recommendation at the last inspection.

## **How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school? Grade 3: Satisfactory**

In a small school, every member of staff has numerous responsibilities and at Cudham the headteacher leads Religious Education and co-ordinates Collective Worship. On the one hand, this gives them an important status. On the other hand, the headteacher has not found time to attend any RE in-service-training in the last three years. Nevertheless, both Collective Worship and RE have improved since the last inspection. The governing body is supportive of the school as a church school. As with the parents, they like the Christian ethos and the links with Cudham church. However, they left the self-evaluation process for two years after the last inspection, with the result that some improvements have been achieved, but a number of areas for development remain the same as in 2006. The governing body has a number of new members who have not yet discussed the school's Christian vision and values. Links with Cudham parish church have traditionally been strong and productive, but these have broken down since the Rector moved away two years ago. In a questionnaire to parents, several commented on the importance of the church link and regretted the current situation. The school has done its best to fill this gap, drawing on the support of a retired local clergyman who has given some welcome assistance with both RE and worship. The headteacher is very supportive of her staff and their development. For example, the assistant headteacher is applying for the qualification for headship and hopes to lead a church school.