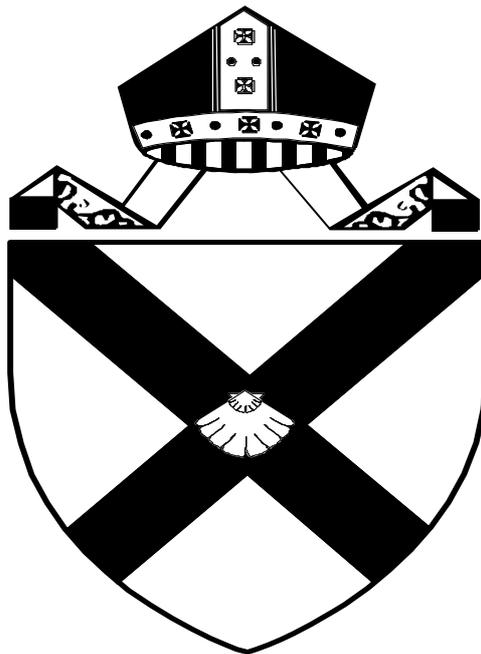


STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2010



**Fawkham Church of England
Primary School**

Voluntary Controlled

Valley Road, Fawkham, Longfield Kent DA3 8NA

Unique Reference No: 118592

Kent LA

Head Teacher: Mrs. Dorinda Perry

Chair of Governors: Mrs. Faye Parkin

Incumbent: Rev. Jim Fletcher

Inspector: Ms Jan Thompson (NS 92)

Inspection: 12th November 2010

SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

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

Fawkham Church of England Primary School is an Outstanding and improving Church School.

Grade 1: OUTSTANDING

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Fawkham is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School, situated in a beautiful rural setting in the small village of Fawkham in west Kent. Its original Victorian building has been much extended to provide large, bright classrooms and a hall. The school has just purchased some adjoining woodland for the pupils to play in and has begun to develop a spiritual garden there. It is oversubscribed, and its 103 pupils come from Fawkham and surrounding villages and towns. Pupils are mostly White British, from a range of social and economic backgrounds. About 21 per cent are from church families, although very few are regular attenders at St. Mary's Church in Fawkham. The school's last inspection was only two years ago and, this time, Ofsted judged the school to be outstanding.

ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS

- The very effective leadership of the headteacher.
- Pupils' moral and spiritual development.
- The strong links between the school and church in this village community.

FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- The governing body should ensure that strategies are in place to continue to monitor and improve the school as a church school.

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

Fawkham Church of England Primary School is a small, very welcoming school. The main entrance display at the time of the inspection had contributions from all pupils, linked to Jesus' new commandment to 'love one another as I have loved you.' This showed clearly how the school's fundamental values of being kind and helpful stem from Christian teaching. Pupils support each other throughout the school and also demonstrate a desire to make other people happy in the local community and beyond. For example, they visit a local nursing home several times each year, taking gifts for the elderly residents and singing and talking to them. They are also enthusiastic in raising money for numerous charities at home and abroad. The adults in the school are good role models, so that relationships and behaviour are very good at all levels. Both Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship promote pupils' strong moral and spiritual development. Since the last inspection, they have been given more opportunities to reflect on their own thoughts and feelings; and pupils enjoy relating RE to their own experiences and discussing their beliefs. All classrooms now have interactive prayer-areas, or prayer-tents, where pupils like to go to be quiet and to pray. This has much improved since the last inspection.

What is the impact of collective worship on the school community? Grade 1: Outstanding

Worship is of a high quality, with pupils taking leading roles as readers and musicians, often writing their own prayers. Daily worship begins with an older pupil volunteer lighting the candle, with the greeting: "The Lord be with you", to which the school responds, "And also with you." Pupils know that the candle represents Jesus as the Light of the World and one pupil said "The candle helps me to reflect on what we are learning about Jesus." Another said "The candle helps us to think about God." Pupils respond well during worship, particularly enjoying the music at the beginning and end, which gives time for quiet reflection. They also enjoy singing religious songs, which they do very well for a small school. The school's daily Collective Worship uses the Canterbury diocesan scheme, which ensures that worship is Bible based and follows the Church's Year. This helps pupils to gain a good understanding of Christianity. Their understanding of Anglican practice is also deepened by Tuesday's collective worship which is led by the Rector or Reader from the parish church of St.Mary's. They also use the church for special services four times a year, which are popular with pupils and parents. Year 5 and 6 pupils now attend the annual Church Schools Festival in Rochester Cathedral and the Rector prepares them for the Eucharist service that they take part in there. He found that pupils had been moved by the experience and it had led to some searching questions. The school places importance on daily worship, which includes class prayers at lunch time and at the end of the school day, for which pupils write their own class prayer-book. All teachers now attend daily Collective Worship with their pupils, which had been an issue at the two previous inspections. Teachers all take turns in leading worship

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

In a small school, every member of staff has numerous responsibilities and the headteacher leads and teaches some Religious Education as well as co-ordinating Collective Worship. She is a very committed and capable church school leader and the school has improved considerably since she took over as headteacher three years ago. The governing body, collectively, has addressed the 'focus for development' from the last report, paying particular attention to pupils' spiritual development. However, it has only been two years since the last inspection, and the headteacher and chair of governors recognise that there is more to do to monitor, develop and promote the school's distinctive religious character. Everyone shares a vision of this school as a church school, based on Christian moral values and more are now also recognising the spiritual values of the school. One parent commented on 'An openness and acceptance of ideas relating to spirituality, which is really refreshing.' The new Rector arrived soon after the last inspection and he has continued the church's very good support for the school. Parents are made very welcome at the festivals that the school celebrates in the church, and many also attend the Family Services now held in school once a term for parents to join pupils at Collective Worship. This is a way of strengthening the very good relationship between church, school and the community, and it gives the Rector an opportunity to relate to parents who are not regular church-goers.