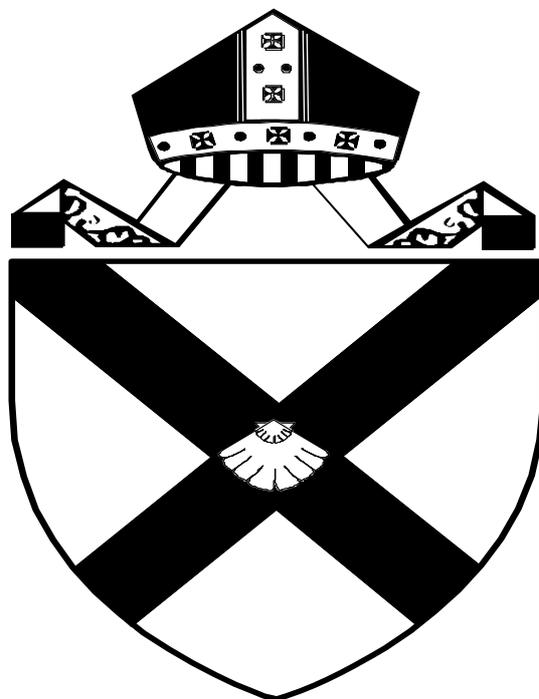


STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2010



**Hildenborough Church of
England Primary School**

Riding Lane, Hildenborough, Tonbridge
Kent TN11 9HY

Voluntary Controlled

Kent CC

Unique Reference No: 103033

Advisory Head Teacher: Miss Lucy Nutt

Chairman of Governors: Mr. Hugh Rumary

Incumbent: Rev. John Chandler

Inspector: Ms Jan Thompson NS 92

Inspection: 6th September

SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

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

Hildenborough Church of England Primary School in Kent is an outstanding Church school. **Overall Grade 1: OUTSTANDING**

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Hildenborough is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England primary school in a pleasant Kent village. Its 191 pupils are mostly from White British and European backgrounds. Many live locally but about half come from the wider Tonbridge area. Attainment on entry is above average and continues to be above average when pupils leave in Year 6. The school has recently been judged by OFSTED to be a satisfactory school, with strengths that include its 'effective care and welfare within its Christian ethos'. Approximately 12% of pupils come from worshipping Church families and there are a very small number of families from other faiths. At the time of this inspection the headteacher had recently resigned, following long-term sick leave, and the deputy headteacher was also away ill. An advisory headteacher had just arrived at the beginning of the school year.

ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS

- The strong spiritual development of pupils, evidenced in their thoughtful response to the Christian life of the school.
- The committed and effective Christian leadership in the school, led by the Religious Education and Collective Worship co-ordinator and well supported by the Foundation team on the Governing Body and by senior teachers.
- The strong sense of teamwork, in which all staff are proactive in promoting Christian values, and the good links with the parish church.

FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the school's own plans for development, the governing body should try to organise the setting up of a school Christian club and promote opportunities for pupils to attend some Sunday church services, such as Education Sunday.

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

Hildenborough is a delightful school where everyone is cared for as part of an inclusive Christian community. All adults in the school are proactive in promoting Christian values, and pupils are reminded of the maxim 'What would Jesus do?', with 'WWJD' on display in each classroom. This results in thoughtful behaviour towards others. Pupils recently enjoyed a creative day to explore the 'Fruit of the Spirit', especially the Christian values of love, joy and peace. The Mission Statement encourages them to 'Be the best that you can be – for yourself, for others and for God' and this is often incorporated into prayer. Pupils respond very well to religious symbolism, such as the evocative banners hanging in the hall where worship takes place. Both Collective Worship and Religious Education (RE) contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual and moral development. For instance, in response to Psalm 23, one pupil wrote 'Even if I'm alone in the deepest darkness, I know that you will be leading me into light.' Pupils are enthusiastic in raising money for charities to help those less fortunate than themselves and this is linked with the Christian teaching to love our neighbour. A special fund-raising event for the earthquake in Haiti included writing prayers and supporting the Christian charity TEAR Fund. The school environment is well used to support pupils' spiritual development, with a greater focus now on making the classroom Christian areas interactive and with plans to create an outdoor spiritual garden.

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

Grade 1: OUTSTANDING

The school provides high quality Collective Worship that pupils respond to very well with excellent behaviour and thoughtful responses. Participation is very good, for example with everyone sharing the 'Peace' together and with excellent singing. Pupils appreciate the variety of worship provided, from the fun acts of worship run by 'Children's Workshop' to the opportunities for quiet reflection in some of the other acts of worship. They also enjoy taking an active part in leading the worship, such as those led by their class or by playing instruments in place of the recorded music at the beginning and end of worship. A different class takes responsibility for the worship board outside the hall, which is changed six times a year. Their display is based on the words of a Christian song. For example, Year 4 work on 'In the bleak mid-winter' included pupils' thoughts on 'What can I give him?' and elicited responses such as "I can give Jesus my trust in him by telling him some of my worries or problems in my prayers." Learners experience some examples of Anglican worship, appropriate to the Evangelical tradition of the parish church. They celebrate a variety of festivals in the church, including Ascension and Pentecost. Year 6 pupils also take part in a Eucharist at Rochester Cathedral for the Church Schools Festival, as recommended at the last inspection; and the Vicar teaches about the Eucharist in Collective Worship so that even young pupils know what the bread and wine represent. The co-ordinator manages Collective Worship very effectively and evaluates individual acts of worship, in response to advice at the last inspection.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a Church school? Grade 2: GOOD

Since the last inspection, the governing body has become more involved in managing the church aspects of the school and has engaged with the school's Christian values and new Mission Statement. Parents and pupils have been included, so that parents recognise that "God is a daily part of life" at this school. The governing body has also addressed all the recommendations from the last inspection. The current chair of governors is a Foundation Governor and is part of the group that regularly evaluates the school as a church school. This group gives very good support to the member of staff who co-ordinates Collective Worship and RE. She regularly attends Diocesan training and is pro-active in the Christian life of the school. RE is much better monitored since the last inspection and all teachers assess the subject in accordance with the agreed syllabus. There is now a link governor for RE and worship, who worships at St John's and leads the Children's Workshop that supports Collective Worship in many local schools. The group also maintains strong links with the parish church, through the membership of the Vicar and other Foundation Governors. Church links are further strengthened through the work of the curate, who takes turns with the Vicar to lead Collective Worship, so that there is now a church-led act of worship most weeks. Clergy are very helpful when asked to be involved in some of the school's RE lessons, and pupils enjoy visiting and finding out more about the church. However, nothing is currently being done to provide a Christian club for pupils, despite the popularity of this provision at the last inspection. Nor are opportunities being taken to encourage pupils to attend some services at church on Sundays, such as Education Sunday.

