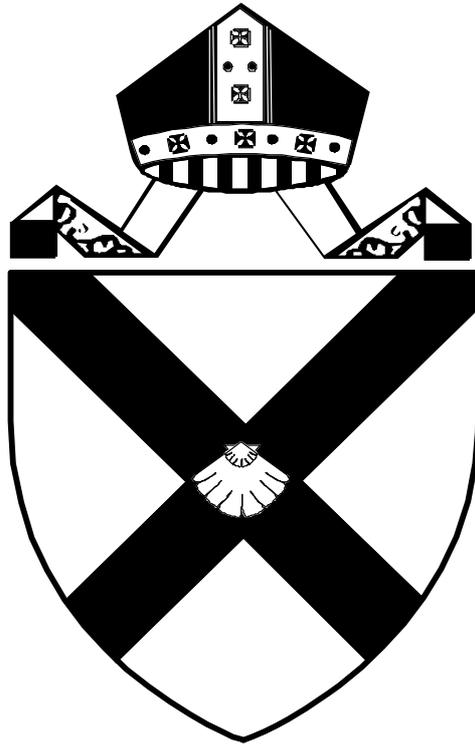


STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2009



**Keston Church of England
Primary School,
Lakes Road, Keston, Bromley BR2 6BN.
Voluntary Controlled.**

Bromley LA

Unique Reference No: 101643

Headteacher: Mrs Julia Evison

Chair of Governors: Mr Robin Allis

Incumbent: Canon David Springthorpe

Inspector: Mrs Julia Watts 466

Inspection: June 23rd 2009

SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

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

Keston Church of England Primary School is a good Church school.

Overall Grade: 2 GOOD.

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Keston Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled school with 221 pupils. Keston has a village feel, despite being close to Bromley, and the school has a very attractive setting. There are very few pupils from an ethnic minority heritage or English as an additional language. Although the number of pupils with additional educational needs is slightly below average, the number of pupils with statements of special educational needs is above average. About 15% of pupils are from worshipping Christian families. The church is situated over 1½ miles away from the school and access is difficult for the whole school. Ofsted recently judged the school to be outstanding.

ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS

- The extent to which pupils know and understand they are unique and special to God.
- The significant improvement in Religious Education (RE) since the last inspection.
- The active involvement of the incumbent and the supportive links with the parish church.

FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Foundation Governors should be actively involved in effectively promoting and developing the Christian aspects of the school.
- Formalise the monitoring and evaluation process for Collective Worship.
- Create further opportunities for Christian prayer and spiritual reflection around the school.

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

Keston CE Primary School encourages its pupils to 'understand the meaning and significance of faith' and as a result pupils are confident of God's love for them as unique individuals. They feel very proud of their school and say that they know that everyone is loved equally by God. This helps them to remember others' needs before their own and motivates their charity giving throughout the year. Pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity is excellent, especially of Jesus' teachings, parables and Bible stories. This is because the school has successfully raised standards in RE and this has contributed to pupil's spiritual development. Collective Worship also supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. An interactive display in the hall gives pupils opportunities to commit any concerns to God in prayer, particularly related to 'changes'. Pupils appreciate this opportunity for quiet reflection, and the school plans to increase this provision in the new building when it is finished.

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

Grade 2: Good

Collective Worship has a central place in school life and has a very positive impact on pupils, who speak very enthusiastically about it. They enjoy worship times and value the opportunities to participate and sing praise to God. Younger pupils say lighting the candle helps them to think about Jesus, the light of the world, being with them. Pupils can relate the creative Christian teaching from Collective Worship to their own lives. Recent parent questionnaires show a very positive and appreciative attitude to worship, especially the major Christian festivals that are celebrated at school throughout the year. However the school has yet to analyse these results and the outcomes of other informal monitoring and feed them into the development plans for next year. All teachers attend Collective Worship daily and worship is planned thoroughly by the senior leadership team with Canon David, the incumbent, who ensures that Collective Worship always has Biblical and Anglican elements. Pupils therefore know the Lord's Prayer well. Each class enjoys a prayer time before the end of the day and Grace before lunch and pupils make regular use of the school prayer box.

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

The headteacher, incumbent and senior staff have made developing and promoting the distinctive Christian ethos of the school a priority over the last three years. However other Foundation Governors have not been actively involved in this. The school has made good progress since the last inspection and has tackled the development points raised. The school's self-evaluation as a Church school is accurate and this effective evaluative process has highlighted further opportunities to develop pupils' spirituality. Religious Education is well led and managed and is now well resourced and has an important place in the school. Teaching is good and there are very good opportunities for learning about religions but some weaknesses in the lower school in relating the religious content to pupils' own lives. Canon David maintains excellent communication between the church and the school. He makes a valued contribution to the worship and pastoral care of the school. Parents speak very positively about the school, especially its good discipline, caring ethos and opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually and morally within a Christian framework. Parents feel staff are always approachable, open and friendly and a good number say they chose this school for their children because of its Church school status.