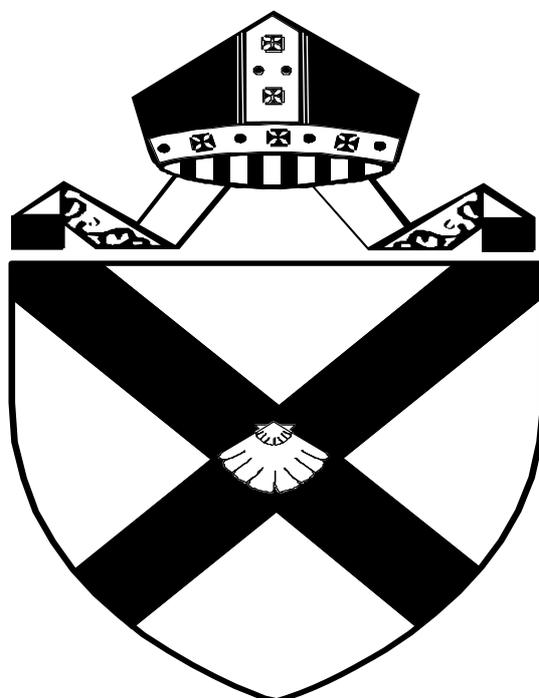


# STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

## *ROCHESTER DIOCESE*

2011



**Langafel Church of England Primary  
School**

Main Road, Longfield, Kent DA3 7PW

**Voluntary Controlled**

Kent LA

Unique Reference No: 118711

Executive Headteacher: Mr. Martin Clinton

Head of School: Mrs. Michelle Parsons

Chair of Governors: Mr. Paul Harrison

Incumbent: Rev. Dave Johnston

Inspector: Jan Thompson N.S.N0 92

Inspection: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011

## SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

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

Langafel Church of England Primary School is a satisfactory Church school with good features.

**Grade 3: Satisfactory**

### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

Langafel Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School has 247 pupils, most of whom are of White British heritage. It is situated in Longfield in North West Kent and serves a wide geographical area. The school has an above average number of pupils with special educational needs, including a specialist unit for 16 autistic pupils. About 5% of families attend Church. There have been considerable changes in leadership and management since the last inspection. On the resignation of the previous headteacher in autumn 2009, the school entered into a 'soft' federation with a community school in order to raise standards. The recent Ofsted inspection found the school to be satisfactory with a number of good features. A substantive headteacher has been appointed for September 2011. The new chair of governors is a church Foundation Governor.

### **ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS**

- Good quality Collective Worship
- Good support from the parish church

### **FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- Make better use of the school environment to promote pupils' spiritual development.
- Give pupils more experience of Anglican traditions and practice.
- Engage with Christian values and develop a Christian vision for the school that is clearly reflected in the school's motto and mission statement and publicised in the school prospectus and on its website.

### **How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners? Grade 3: Satisfactory**

The school's motto 'Friendship and learning' accurately sums up this friendly, welcoming school where all are equally valued and helped to learn. For example, pupils from the unit for Autism are treated with respect by their peers. Relationships in school are good at all levels. Pupils are well behaved and helpful. However, the main values adopted in the last two years have been based on UNICEF's 'Rights and Responsibilities' without any attempt to link these explicitly to Christian values. Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship make some good contributions to pupils' spiritual and moral development. For example, Year 6 pupils wrote some very moving religious poems, in the style of Psalm 23, when asked to 'reflect on what helps, comforts and guides us in our everyday lives.' Pupils make good progress in becoming responsible citizens. They recognise the importance of learning about different religions in order to understand and respect other people. They are enthusiastic in raising money for charities, and say that this is appropriate in a Church school "because Jesus tended the poor and lame." A good display about a school in Kenya that pupils support, drew their attention to the belief that 'We are all part of God's family.' However, apart from one or two other examples, the school environment is not yet well enough used to promote pupils' spiritual development.

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

### **Grade 2: Good**

Worship is well-presented and of a good quality, and therefore engages pupils well. They like many aspects of worship, particularly when they are more actively involved and when they have visitors. They like the Rector's weekly Collective Worship, and one pupil said "Reverend Johnston helps us to worship God." Staff report that they feel uplifted by worship and find the Rector's message helpful. Pupils recognise the divine nature of worship and value opportunities to pray and thank God. They say that Collective Worship makes them feel calm and peaceful, as well as reaching deep emotions. One boy said it made him feel "spiritual." Pupils have gained a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity from Collective Worship, focusing as it does on the major Christian festivals and drawing on the Bible. However, a new scheme is being developed that does not include seasons of the Church's year, such as Advent and Lent, and pupils have a limited experience of worship in the parish church because it is too small to accommodate them all. The Rector uses Anglican greetings and responses, but these are not used for worship during the rest of the week, hence pupils' experience of Anglican traditions and practices are limited. Worship is given importance in the school day and Foundation Governors have been monitoring it, as recommended in the last report.

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

The executive headteacher and head of school have focused on raising standards in the last two years, leaving engagement with the school's Christian vision for the newly appointed substantive headteacher to take forward when she comes in September. The school motto, prospectus and website do not reflect clearly enough the Church foundation of the school. A committed Christian group has maintained the self-evaluation of church aspects of the school since the resignation of the previous headteacher. The group is made up of Foundation Governors and the Collective Worship co-ordinator, and is led by the RE subject leader. The areas for development in the last report have been addressed, but have not been sufficiently developed in line with more recent Diocesan advice. For example, more crosses have been put up in the school entrance hall, but most classrooms lack Christian reflection areas. The RE subject leader attends Diocesan training regularly and benefits from sharing ideas with other schools on curriculum RE. A strength of the school is the on-going support of the parish church, through the Foundation Governors. The Rector, in particular, has a strong and effective presence in the school. He leads Collective Worship once a week and also attends the school's Christian club that meets monthly after school. His support for RE has developed with the establishment of the Canterbury Diocesan scheme of work. He also supports Year 6 pupils annually in their involvement with the Church Schools Festival in Rochester Cathedral.