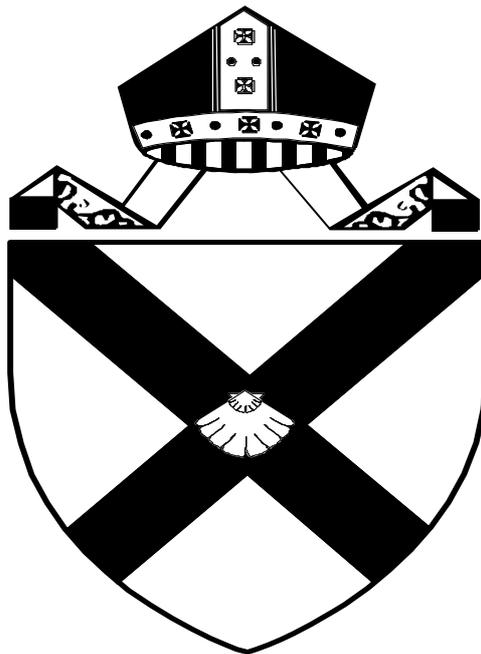


STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2011



**Parish Church of England
Primary School**

Voluntary Controlled

London Lane, Bromley BR1 4HF
Bromley LA

Unique Reference No: 101644

Head Teacher: Mr. Hilary Richardson

Chair of Governors/Incumbent of Bromley Parish

Church: Revd. Canon Michael Camp

Incumbent of St. Mary's Plaistow: Rev. Alan Keeler

Inspector: Ms Jan Thompson (NS 92)

Inspection: 22nd November 2011

SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

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

Parish Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School in Bromley has improved since its last inspection and is now an outstanding church school.

Grade 1: Outstanding

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Parish Church of England Primary School is Bromley's oldest educational establishment, founded as a Charity School in 1717. Nearly three centuries and two locations later, the present school is situated in an elegant, late eighteenth century mansion set in extensive grounds with a new building for Early Years. The school is named after Bromley Parish Church, in whose parish it started. It is now within the parish of St Mary's in Plaistow. The school is very successful and oversubscribed. It has 452 pupils, drawn mostly from within a half-mile radius. Most pupils are from White British families with an above average number from ethnic minority backgrounds. About 15% percent of the school's families are regular church-goers. A wide range of other religions are represented, including about 40 Muslim pupils. Ofsted judged the school to be outstanding.

ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS

- The strong Christian ethos that underpins the whole life of the school
- The high quality of Christian worship
- The Christian commitment of the headteacher and other significant teachers
- The support of the two parish churches

FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Make fuller use of Diocesan advice and initiatives to take the school forward as an outstanding Church school.
- Make better use of the website to promote the school's Christian values and vision and its links with two churches.

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

Clearly identified Christian values impact upon the whole life of this school. Explained in a Values Statement, they focus on respect, generosity, honesty and integrity, care and trust. This leads to excellent relationships and behaviour at all levels throughout the school. Christian moral and spiritual development is strengthened by a scheme of work that links Religious Education (RE), Personal, Social and Health Education and Collective Worship. In this way, pupils understand that the Bible gives clear teaching on Christian behaviour. For example, older pupils were able to explain that they are doing God's work and following Jesus' example when supporting charities locally and worldwide. Pupils speak openly about faith and enjoy discussing religious questions in RE. Up to 40 pupils attend the 'Bible Is Fun' (BIF) club, run during one lunchtime a week. The programme this term is based on pupils' questions about such things as God the Creator, Jesus' miracles and his resurrection. The school environment is now better used for spiritual development than at the time of the last inspection. Every classroom has a Christian wall display, with crosses and prayers, which pupils appreciate. Although these do not encourage an interactive response, some pupils have attached their own prayers on Post-It notes. The school has just begun to consider creating an outside area as a quiet spiritual garden.

What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?

Grade 1: Outstanding

Pupils respond enthusiastically to the high quality Christian worship that the school provides and to opportunities for their class to lead the worship for the rest of the school and their parents. Singing is excellent and worship is sometimes supported by the Chamber Choir and by instrumentalists. No one is withdrawn from worship. Pupils understand the divine nature of worship and see it as a way of showing respect to God. Pupils appreciate the opportunities to pray throughout the day, such as the quiet prayer time before they go home. They know that they can speak to God, to thank Him for the day and to say sorry for things they have done wrong. There is more Anglican influence on collective worship than at the time of the last inspection. For example, a liturgical greeting is used at the beginning of worship. Worship follows the seasons and festivals of the Church's year, including Pentecost, and special festivals are held in the two parish churches. Year 6 pupils attend the annual Church Schools Festival in Rochester Cathedral, where they take part in a Eucharist service. The clergy support the classes that lead weekly acts of worship, giving a short talk at the end with a prayer and a blessing. Clergy attend a staff lunch once a term to discuss the themes in the plans for worship and RE and to explain the theology underpinning these themes. Consequently pupils leave this school with a very good knowledge and understanding of Christianity and with an engaging experience of Christian worship. Monitoring of collective worship is in the school's action plan and has begun to take place.

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

The four identified areas for development in the last report have been addressed and are no longer issues. For example, the school's self-evaluation as a church school has been well done, with sound judgements. Of particular note has been the drawing up of a statement in 2010 of the school's Christian Values, worked out in a fuller Vision Statement. This process involved all the different stakeholders in the school. Parents of all backgrounds are appreciative of the Christian education their children receive and the school values the contributions of families from other faiths. There is also strong staff support for the Christian ethos of the school, particularly as a large number are church-goers. The school continues to benefit from the very good support of two different parish churches, with both incumbents on the governing body. The Vicar of Bromley Parish Church, who is currently Chair of Governors, has for many years been involved with church school education in the Diocese and has played a leading role on the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education. He led this school's values and vision process and also set up interactive Stations of the Cross around the school at Easter time, which pupils found inspiring. The other church, St Mary's, set up an interactive Christmas Journey in their church for local schools, which younger pupils from Parish enjoyed. They also host an annual Thanksgiving Service for the school and help run the BIF club. Unfortunately the Diocesan newsletter for Church Schools has not been circulated to both incumbents or shared with the Governing Body. Consequently, Diocesan initiatives such as the Bishop's Commendation and support for interactive prayer areas and spiritual gardens have not been accessed. The school recognises the need to improve its website as a means of promoting the Christian character of the school and its church links.