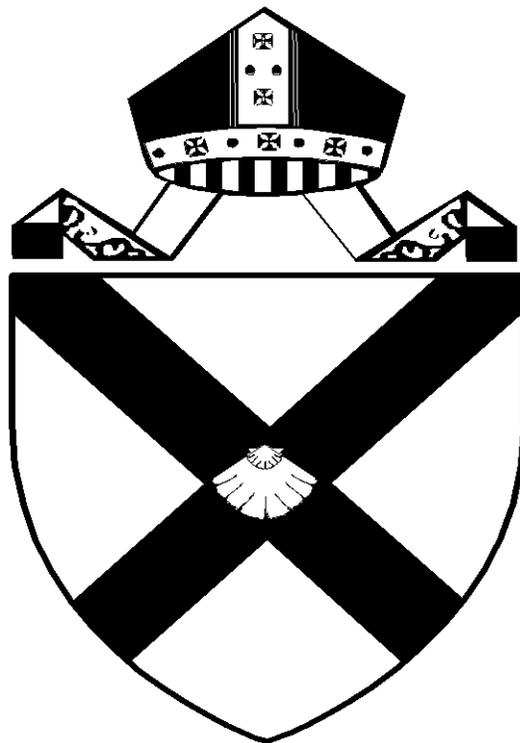


STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2012



**Rosherville Church of England
Primary School**

London Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 9JQ

Voluntary Controlled

Kent CC

Unique Reference No: 118593

Consultant Headteacher: Steve Bassett

Acting Headteacher: Gill Graves

Chair of Governors and Incumbent:

Revd. Lawrence Smith

Inspector: Ms. Jan Thompson. N.S.92

Inspection: 17 April 2012

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Rosherville Voluntary Controlled CE Primary School

London Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 9JQ

Diocese: Rochester

Local authority: Kent

Date of inspection: 17 April 2012

Date of last inspection: 8 May 2009

School's unique reference number: 118593

Consultant Headteacher: Steve Bassett Acting Headteacher: Gill Graves

Inspector's name and number: Jan Thompson No 92

School context

Rosherville is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School, founded in 1871 and still located in its small Victorian building, with mobile classrooms. Its 130 pupils are mostly White British or Indian. 70% have English as an additional language. About 10% of pupils are from worshipping Christian families, some black Pentecostal. Four other religions are represented in the school, with 23% Sikh and 15% Muslim. There have been significant changes in leadership and management since the last inspection. The present incumbent is Chair of Governors at this school as well as at a neighbouring church school. A new headteacher stayed for only two years, leaving the school vulnerable at the time of its Ofsted inspection. Ofsted put the school into Special Measures but recognised the good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and saw this as a key strength of the school. There is currently a Consultant Headteacher, with the deputy as Acting Headteacher for one day a week. She also leads Collective Worship and Religious Education (RE), as well as having other teaching and management responsibilities.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Rosherville CE Primary School as a Church of England school are good.

Rosherville Church of England Primary School is a good church school. It has had a difficult time since its last inspection, but its distinctive Christian character remains an important defining feature and is the bond that has held this community together.

Established strengths

- The impact of Christian values on the whole life of the school
- The loving Christian ethos that produces a harmonious multi-faith community
- Pupils' understanding of worship and the importance of prayer
- The strong links between school, church and local community

Focus for development

- Articulate the school's distinctive Christian character in its documentation, clarifying the religious basis of its core values and listing these with the school's aims.
- Regularise the use of the Diocesan RE Syllabus.
- Encourage more regular pupil involvement in planning, leading and monitoring collective worship.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners

This is a small, friendly school with a 'family' atmosphere. When pupils were asked what makes it a Christian school, one answered 'We are kind and we love each other.' Friendship is one of the school's core Christian values. Harmonious relationships exist in this diverse ethnic community, and pupils enjoy learning about their similarities and differences. In all classes, pupils listen to others respectfully and are able to put forward their own opinions confidently. RE and Philosophy for Children make particularly good contributions to pupils' spiritual development, especially as RE encourages a creative response from pupils. Parents are encouraged to discuss religion with their children. In one RE and Worship Newsletter, questions were suggested such as 'What do we mean by belief?' and it was suggested that they explored the meaning of religious words like 'Pentecost' and 'inspiration'. Belief in God was cited by one pupil as a sign that this is a church school. Compassion is another of the school's Christian values, supported by religious teaching such as Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan and a similar Sikh story, through which pupils learn to love their neighbours. Pupils enjoy helping others in the local community. For example, the choir sings at St. Peter's Home for dementia sufferers and Huggen's College for retired people. Since the last inspection, the school now also supports two schools in Africa, giving a global dimension to the school's citizenship. The school environment continues to be very well used for pupils' spiritual development, and a 'reflective garden' has just been completed. The attractive reflection areas in each classroom are now more interactive than at the last inspection, and pupils enjoy using them when they want a quiet moment. The school's distinctive Christian character was acknowledged in 2011 when they were one of three schools highly commended by the Bishop for their church school portfolio. The Bishop visited to award them their certificate.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Pupils are very enthusiastic about collective worship, engage fully with it and enjoy all its aspects. They say that they like reading out pupils' prayers from the prayer box and leading the singing as soloists or in small groups. The quality of the worship seen was good and involved a number of pupils in the Bible reading. They were invited to finish with a message and some pupils offered thoughts such as 'Don't be nasty to anyone' and 'Don't ever judge people.' Over the past year, a few groups have led their own acts of worship and pupils have sometimes been chosen at random to evaluate acts of worship. Pupils have a good understanding of the religious purpose of worship, knowing that it is offered to God. They particularly value prayer as a means of sharing their worries with God and thanking God for all his gifts. Both staff and pupils derive inspiration from worship, commenting on feelings of 'calm' and 'inner happiness'. A Year 2 pupil said 'I like the songs – they really make me think about God.' There are no withdrawals from the Christian acts of worship, and pupils from different religions explain that they all worship the One God. Worship themes follow the Church's year and pupils gain familiarity with some aspects of Anglican worship, particularly when the clergy lead worship on Thursdays and when the school celebrates festivals in church three times a year. Since the last inspection, the time of school worship has been changed to the end of the day, and pupils would benefit from a prayer in their classroom to start the day. The policy statement has not been kept up to date and reference to 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' is not appropriate in a church school.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school is good.

The governing body has addressed the two issues for development from the last report, concerning use of levels in RE and involvement of all governors in self-evaluation of the school as a church school. Unfortunately, the Mission Statement has since been changed and documentation no longer makes clear the distinctive Christian nature of this school. The governing body is trialling the use of the Diocesan RE Syllabus, which gives good support to teachers and has resulted in good teaching and learning. This syllabus has not yet been properly adopted. Pupils each have an RE folder for their work, with the list of level descriptions highlighted to show their individual attainment. The school recognises that teachers would benefit from in-service-training on moderating and assessing pupils' work against these levels. The governing body has involved all stakeholders in identifying four key Christian values: friendship, compassion, endurance and thanksgiving. These are promoted through all aspects of school life, but particularly collective worship, RE and reflection areas. This shows their religious nature and their links with the Bible and Christian teaching. Pupils are awarded certificates for achievement reflecting these four values. A strong partnership exists between school and church. The incumbent is frequently in school as Chair of Governors and gives good support to the Acting Headteacher, who attends his church of St.Botolph's. A new curate is based at St Mark's Church, which is nearest to the school, and he gives good support to worship and RE. A school notice board has been set up in the church, which has brought the school and congregation closer together. Good use is made of Diocesan training and events. For example, the school participated in the National RE Celebration in 2011 along with other church schools at St George's Church of England Secondary School in Gravesend. The school continues to participate in local community events such as the Sikh celebration of Vaisakhi and Gravesend's Festival of Light.