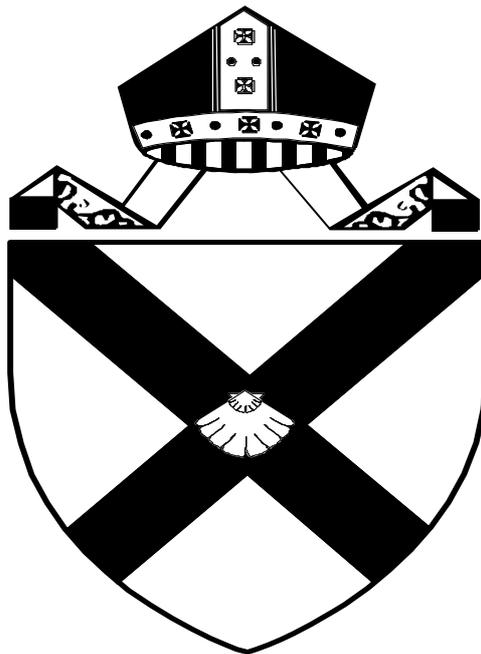


# STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

## ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2010



**Shorne Church of England  
Primary School**

**Voluntary Controlled**

Cob Drive, SHORNE, Gravesend  
Kent DA12 3DU

Unique Reference No: 118594  
Kent LA

Head Teacher: Ms Caroline Conroy  
Chair of Governors: Mr. Bill Johnson  
Incumbent: Rev. Glyn Ackerley  
Inspector: Ms Jan Thompson NS No. 92  
Inspection: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

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

#### **Overall Grade 3: Satisfactory**

Shorne Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School in Kent is a satisfactory church school.

#### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

Shorne Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled school situated in a lovely Kent village close to Gravesend. The school is oversubscribed with 210 pupils on roll. Thirty of these are from the parish and others travel in from the surrounding areas. Almost all are from White British families and fewer than average have special needs/disabilities. About ten percent are from regular worshipping church families. The headteacher has been in post for almost a year, and a new incumbent arrived last November. Ofsted found the school to be satisfactory overall and commented that it was a friendly, kind and caring community.

#### **ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS**

- Pupils care for the environment as God's creation.
- Pupils enjoy Collective Worship.
- Strong links exist between the parish church and the school.

#### **FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- The school building should be better used to promote pupils' spiritual development. (This was a focus for development at the last inspection.)
- Collective Worship should be regularly monitored and evaluated in order to improve it, and particularly to strengthen the Anglican elements.
- The Governing Body, as a whole, should manage the school's on-going self-evaluation process as a church school.
- The policy statements for Religious Education and Collective Worship should be rewritten.

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

Shorne is a friendly, caring school where pupils behave very well and relationships are very good at all levels. Its aims begin with 'respect for God' but its other aims of perseverance and achievement have not been linked explicitly to Christian teaching and pupils do not readily make the connection. The recent focus on Golden Rules has similarly not been linked to Christian values. Good links have been made, however, between caring for the environment, which is an important feature of this school, and looking after God's creation. Religious Education (RE) sometimes makes a good contribution to pupils' spiritual development. For example, Year 6 pupils thought of questions they would like to ask God. They enjoyed sharing their ideas and some suggested answers. However, pupils throughout the school are not given enough opportunities like this to relate their RE to their own lives. Pupils are encouraged to respect people who have different beliefs, but their knowledge of other religions is poor. At the last inspection, the school was asked to promote pupils' spiritual development by providing a greater focus on RE displays in the classroom. There was little evidence of this at the time of this inspection and no interactive displays to encourage prayer and reflection. Each class has a small wooden cross on the wall, which pupils know is a symbol of Christianity and which they find inspiring. Collective Worship contributes well to pupils' spiritual and moral development, and pupils appreciate all the opportunities it gives them to worship God.

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

#### **Grade 3: Satisfactory**

Pupils are mostly positive about all aspects of Collective Worship and appreciate the opportunity it gives them to worship God in song and prayer. They respond well to what is presented to them, such as questions and projected pictures, but they take a limited part in leading the regular acts of worship. Pupils spoke about valuing the time to be with God and the use of the candle to focus on. However, there was little opportunity for quiet reflection in the worship during the inspection, and pupils say they would like more quiet time. Little has been done to develop the Anglican character of daily Collective Worship. Pupils celebrate big festivals in church, well supported by their parents, but this does not include the celebration of Pentecost. Year 6 pupils have not yet attended the annual Church Schools Festival, which would have given them valuable experience of the Eucharist in the Cathedral church. Diocesan advice about worship has made little lasting impact. In particular, the fact that teachers only attend three acts of worship a week with their classes limits their ability to follow up the worship teaching with their pupils. Similarly, an inadequate policy statement remains from many years ago and no formal monitoring takes place. The school is therefore not giving sufficient importance to worship in this church school.

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

The governing body as a whole has not taken responsibility for the on-going improvement of this school as a church school. It has not given due consideration to diocesan advice and has not questioned the previous headteacher's judgements. Consequently, little development has taken place since the last inspection and in some cases things have deteriorated. The last inspection report advised governors to ensure that all stakeholders are fully involved in the ongoing process of self-evaluating the school as a church school. The school council has recently been involved and a questionnaire was sent out to parents, but only after the date of this inspection was known. The governing body has not engaged current stakeholders in an examination of the Christian values underlying the school's aims and its new Golden Rules. Previously the church aspects of the school were left to the headteacher and incumbent. Both are now new, and relationships with the parish church remain very supportive, particularly through the incumbent and new Foundation Governor. The governing body as a whole is proud of its church school and many governors are church-goers. Many parents are also supportive of the church foundation of the school. The headteacher, as RE subject leader, has carried out monitoring and judges overall standards to be at least satisfactory. She has clear ideas of where improvements need to be made, including a new policy statement and new scheme of work. All new personnel, including the chair of governors, are now very positive about taking a fresh look at this school as a church school in order to improve it.