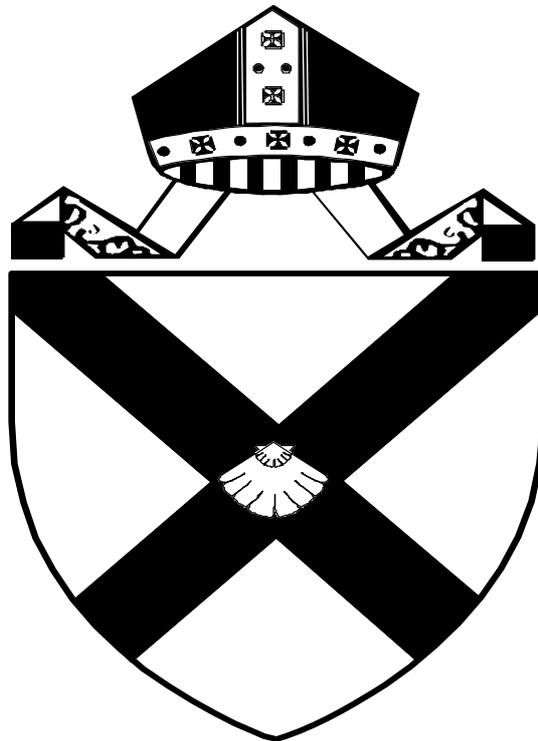


STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2009



**Southborough Church of England
Primary School**

Voluntary Controlled

Kent LA

Unique Reference No: 118712

Head Teacher: Emma Savage

Chair of Governors: Roger Evernden

Team Rector: Rev. Gerald Hovenden

Inspector: Julia Watts. N.S.No.466

Inspection: June 2nd 2009

SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

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

Southborough Church of England Primary School is an outstanding Voluntary Controlled church school and in an excellent position to continue improving.

Grade 1: Outstanding

School Context

Southborough Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled school of 403 pupils. The school currently includes a specialist speech and language unit for West Kent, and its pupils are fully integrated into the worship life of the school. Consequently the school has a high proportion of pupils with a statement of special educational needs, although the percentage of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is average. Attainment on entry to the school is at or just below average and pupils achieve broadly average standards on leaving. There are few children with English as an additional language and most pupils are of White British heritage. The school is situated next to Christ Church church, and about 25% of pupils attend this or one of the other local churches. The current headteacher has been in post since September 2008.

Established Strengths

- The effective and mutually support links with the Parish Church.
- The impact of the Christian ethos on the life of the whole school and its pupils.
- The strategic vision of the senior leaders of the school to further improve and develop the school as a Church school.

Focus for Development

- The school has a clear and accurate plan for developing the Christian nature of the school, including the current focus of clearly defining and articulating the core Christian values that underpin the life of the school.

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

Southborough Church of England Primary school is a delightful school with a tangible Christian ethos that is articulated by pupils, parents and staff. Pupils speak of their school being 'about everyone being valuable' and they link this to Bible stories and Jesus' teaching. Pupils make excellent progress in social and moral awareness and can link their behaviour and decisions to biblical ideas. Parents speak of the value of being part of a strong family community that strives to develop children 'in a Christian manner.' Relationships are excellent, both amongst staff and between staff, parents and pupils. The ethos of reflection is now well established and this has supported all pupils' emotional and spiritual development. There are many areas around the school, including in classrooms, where pupils and staff can go for quiet reflection as well as for prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Creative displays of children's work are of a high quality and support learning in Religious Education (RE). Collective worship displays encourage learners to reflect on their unique contribution to the school community.

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

Grade 2: Good

Pupils have a good understanding of worship. They say that worship and prayer help them to 'link to God and to one another' and say that the best thing about worship is 'celebrating together what God has done for us.' They enjoy singing because it 'helps them to follow Jesus'. Pupils appreciate the time for quiet reflection, although they say they don't have this opportunity every day. Most pupils are very enthusiastic about worship but would like to be more involved in planning and participating. Pupils know and understand that prayer is a valued part of school life and that teachers will always give them time to say prayers if they want or need to. They enjoy the special services throughout the year at the Parish Church, which includes Ascension Day and enhances their understanding of Anglican worship. These services are always very well attended by parents and other members of the community, who value the close connection between church and school. Clergy from the parish team are often in school and lead worship every week. The curate also provides pastoral support for the staff in the twice-monthly prayer meeting. Worship is central and important to the life of the school, although the policy statement and prospectus do not clearly reflect either the true Christian nature of collective worship or its tangible impact on school life. All teaching staff attend collective worship daily and take turns in leading worship across each term. Collective worship is regularly monitored, although there has not been a specific developmental focus on it until very recently.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

Grade 1: Outstanding

All the senior leaders have a clear, strategic vision for developing the Christian aspects of this school. Ably led by the committed headteacher, the Governing Body has renewed its vision and energy for moving this school forward. The school's self-evaluation has been well managed and is accurate and effective, with clear plans for further development. The school has made improvements since the last inspection and has addressed the issues raised in the previous report. Religious Education (RE) is extremely well led by a committed practitioner and the standard of teaching and learning is good. The subject leader has made full use of Diocesan support and has a clear plan for further developing assessment practices across the school, with a focus on marking. The school is fully supported by the Foundation Governors and the local church community and clergy. Parents are very positive about the Christian aspects of the school and its impact on their children. The Parish Church prays for and regularly supports the school in various ways; and many pupils attend the annual Holiday Club as well as mid-week and after-school Christian clubs. Clergy have supported RE teaching on baptism and the Eucharist, and will accompany pupils to the Church Schools' Festival in Rochester Cathedral this year to take part in a Eucharist service.