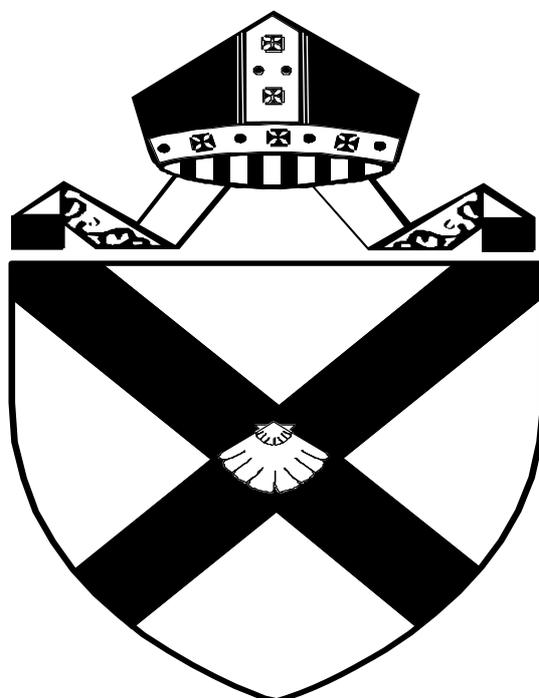


STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2009



**Chislehurst St. Nicholas
Church of England Primary School**

School Road, The Common, Chislehurst,
Kent BR7 5PQ

Voluntary Aided

Bromley LA

Unique Reference No: 101649

Head Teacher: John Paddington

Chair of Governors: Vicky Cliff

Incumbent: Rev. Simon Burton-Jones

Inspector: Julia Watts N.S. No.466

Inspection: 28th April 2009

SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

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

Chislehurst St. Nicholas Church of England Primary school is an outstanding church school.

Overall Grade: Grade 1: Outstanding

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Chislehurst St. Nicholas is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary school of 218 pupils. It is located opposite St. Nicholas' Church on Chislehurst Common in mostly Victorian buildings. The school is over-subscribed and most pupils are from White British backgrounds. Most pupils come from worshipping Christian homes. Standards on entry are above average and are well above average by the end of Year 6. Ofsted judged it to be a good school with outstanding personal development.

ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS

- The explicit Christian vision and values of the school.
- The excellent progress made by pupils in spiritual and moral awareness.
- The centrality of Christian worship throughout all aspects of school life.
- Pupils' positive attitudes to learning in Religious Education (RE).

FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- The school should press on with its own development plan for Religious Education, including enabling class teachers to use the level descriptors to set challenging tasks.
- The Governing Body should have a more strategic and formalised approach to developing the church aspects of the school.

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

Chislehurst St. Nicholas promotes Christian values and spiritual development and as a result pupils are secure, happy and well-behaved. They are very proud of their school, especially the caring Christian family atmosphere. They value the importance of being listened to by staff and say they know that their opinions matter. In this school, pupils know that it is important to care for one another, including 'loving our enemies', as that is what God wants. The school environment provides some good opportunities for pupils to reflect on the teaching from collective worship. Creative displays of pupils' work are of a good quality and support learning in Religious Education (RE). Pupils make excellent progress in spiritual and moral awareness and can link their behaviour and decisions to biblical ideas. For example, pupils talked about the significance of obedience to God, as Jesus taught. Adults in the school have very good supportive relationships with one another and this is reflected in their interaction with the pupils.

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

Grade 1: Outstanding

Collective worship underpins life at this school and has a very positive impact on pupils, who speak very enthusiastically about it. Pupils enjoy worship times and value the opportunities to participate and pray together, although they are less positive about worship when it is held in their classrooms. Singing is lively and enhances the worshipful atmosphere. Pupils can relate the Christian teaching from collective worship to their own lives. Both pupils and parents enjoy their special services in the church which celebrate major Christian festivals throughout the year, including Pentecost and St. Nicholas's Day. These services are well attended by parents. The highlight for each class is their own Eucharist at St. Nicholas' Church every year. Pupils take time to plan and prepare for this service, and pupils invite their families to come to the church with them. The headteacher and other senior teachers work closely with the local clergy from three Anglican churches, as well as the local Methodist and Ichthus Church ministers to ensure that Collective Worship always has strong biblical elements. Pupils therefore enjoy a rich pattern of Anglican worship as well as experiencing worship from other Christian traditions throughout the year. Each class enjoys a prayer time before the end of the day and Grace before lunch.

How effective is Religious Education in the school?

Grade 2 - Good

The school has made good progress in this area since the last inspection. The Bromley Scheme of Work has been implemented; although the committed subject leader is aware of the need to review the scheme of work in order to improve standards further. Overall, pupils reach above average standards in RE, broadly in line with those in other core subjects. Progress in RE is secure across the school due to good teaching and questioning. Pupils' work is assessed at the end of each academic year, but teachers are not planning sufficiently challenging work using the level descriptors. Pupils enjoy RE, especially studying other religions. They show a positive attitude and are confident to share their own ideas and beliefs. Younger pupils can recall key Bible stories and older pupils are able to interpret Jesus' sayings and derive meaning for their own attitudes and behaviour. Pupils' learning in RE enables them to grow morally and spiritually because there are many good opportunities for pupils to relate their learning to themselves. The local church(es) and clergy are sometimes used for teaching about Christianity, although there have been few opportunities to invite visitors from other faiths.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school? Grade 1: Outstanding

The school has a cohesive and inclusive family feel because the headteacher and senior managers are very committed and clear about their Christian vision. The school is well managed and supported by the whole Governing Body. Relationships with all three local parish churches are excellent, and the clergy at St. Nicholas regularly share news of the school with the congregation. Staff, parents, governors and pupils are involved in the schools' self evaluation as a church school, although this tends to be informal and irregular. RE and worship have a high profile amongst Governors and senior leaders and are well-resourced and budgeted for. Links with the Diocese are good and the school is part of the support network for RE subject leaders. The school attends the Church Schools' Festival each year. Staff are well-supported and feel confident and comfortable with the school's Christian ethos and are encouraged to express their faith. Parents are extremely pleased with the school and feel their opinions are valued. Many see the status of church school as adding to their children's education and appreciate the strong moral foundation the school provides.