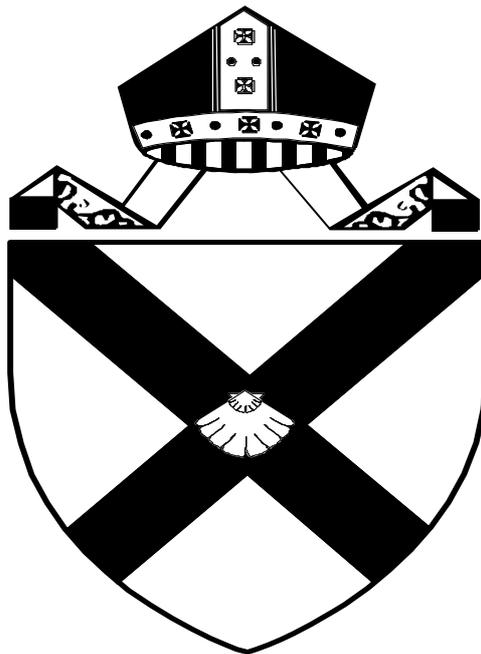


# STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

## ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2011



**Sundridge & Brasted Church of  
England Primary School**  
**Voluntary Controlled**

Church Road, Sundridge, Kent TN14 6EA  
Unique Reference No:118608  
Kent LA

Head Teacher: Kathryn Taylor  
Chair of Governors: Penny Kift  
Incumbent: Revd. Dr. David Attwood  
Inspector: Jan Thompson (NS 92)  
Inspection: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011

## **SUMMARY JUDGEMENT**

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

Sundridge & Brasted Church of England Primary School has continued to improve since the last inspection of 2007 and is now an outstanding Church school.

**GRADE 1: OUTSTANDING**

### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

This is a small Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School situated in a Victorian building in the Kent village of Sundridge, next to Brasted. Its 81 pupils are drawn from both villages and beyond. They come mostly from White British families. There is a socio-economic mix, with a high percentage of special needs. The school is opposite St. Mary's Church in Sundridge and is also served by St. Martin's Church in Brasted and the two vicars. There are very few pupils from regular worshipping Church families. Ofsted judged the school to be satisfactory overall, with many good features. The headteacher has been in post for a year.

### **ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS**

- The impact of Christian values on the whole life of this school community.
- The Christian leadership of the headteacher, well supported by the governing body.
- The use of the school environment for spiritual development.

### **FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- Develop further the involvement of pupils in evaluating Collective Worship.
- Introduce prayers at the end of the day in all classes.

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

Sundridge & Brasted Church of England Primary School is a very caring Christian community where clearly identified Christian values are making a strong impact on the whole life of the school. Since the last inspection, the school's Christian values have been derived from Matthew 22: 34-40, where Jesus teaches his followers to love God and to love one another. A recent focus on the school's vision and values has identified eight explicitly Christian values that it wants to promote more, including humility, 'kinship' and forgiveness. All members of staff are good role models of Christian values, pupils behave well and relationships are very good at all levels throughout the school. Respect and concern for others have led to outreach beyond the school and local community to links with a multi-ethnic school in London and a school in Uganda. Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship continue to make very good contributions to pupils' spiritual and moral development. For example, Year 2 RE work on the story of creation in Genesis 1 leads to a focus on conservation and caring for God's world. Pupils have a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity, which has benefited from cross-curricular activity days on Easter, Pentecost and the Lord's Prayer. The school environment is now very well used to promote pupils' spiritual development. The hall has excellent displays relevant to a Church school, including a charity board that links the school's support for charities with Jesus' teaching. Beautiful interactive prayer corners in classes are well used by pupils, the Year 5/6 one being designed by the pupils themselves. A new outdoor prayer-garden is being trialled this term.

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

### **Grade 2: Good**

Pupils enjoy worship and participate well. For example, during the inspection, three girls led quiet singing at the beginning of worship, a boy and a girl helped to dramatise the parable being taught and all pupils engaged enthusiastically when opportunities were given for paired discussion. A very young pupil was not afraid to pursue his line of religious questioning with the headteacher, and an older pupil led the school in a prayer that he made up. Pupils appreciate activity in worship as well as quieter times for reflection. They say that the candle makes them feel calm and reminds them that God is always there for them. They know that they can talk to God in prayer and share their feelings with him. They enjoy singing to God and learning more about him from the words of the hymns. Staff also spoke of the inspiration they derive from their daily attendance at school worship. The worship scheme is Christian and biblical and now includes liturgical greetings and responses, appropriate in a Church of England school. Pupils benefit from two churches in which to celebrate church festivals and are familiar with a range of Anglican traditions and practices. This includes celebration of the Eucharist in Rochester Cathedral for Year 6 pupils at the annual Church Schools Festival. All this indicates the importance in which worship is held at this school, led by the headteacher. Grace is said at lunchtime throughout the school, but a quiet time of prayer at the end of the day is not yet common practice in all classes. Also, the school recognises the need for more pupil involvement in evaluating Collective Worship and has begun to formalise this.

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

The very strong Christian leadership and management have continued since the last inspection, despite some changes in roles. The new headteacher has come from an outstanding church school and has also benefited from the diocesan training for new headteachers. This has helped her to develop further the good work begun by her predecessor at this school. The chair of governors has recently taken over from the Vicar of Sundridge, who has always given good spiritual leadership for the governing body and recently led them in reviewing the school's Christian values. The other Foundation Governor and the new chair of governors worship at the two parish churches respectively and form strong links between these churches and the school. For example, the Foundation Governor recently made a presentation to the school in preparation for Christian Aid Week. Monitoring and self-evaluation of the school as a church school have continued and have fed into the school's improvement plan, bringing about on-going developments. The prospectus has been rewritten and now reflects the school's Church status well. All stakeholders are included, although it has been recognised that pupils could be more involved in this process. The governing body as a whole is very supportive of the school as a church school and it was important to them that they appointed a practising Christian. There is also good induction of staff into the values and expectations of this church school. Parents are appreciative of the Christian ethos of the school and value the Christian teaching that their children receive. They enjoy attending the school services in church, and some also come along on Sundays when the school choir is involved. Some parents have chosen this school because it is a church school and some attend the monthly prayer-group at the school, led by the headteacher.