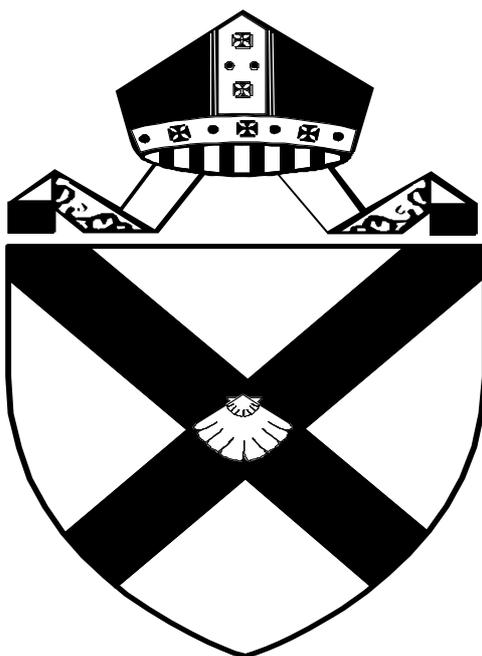


STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ROCHESTER DIOCESE

2009



**Wouldham All Saints
Church of England Primary School
Voluntary Controlled**

School Lane, Wouldham, Rochester,
Kent ME1 3TS

Unique Reference No:118634
Kent LA

Head Teacher: Mr. Carl Fitter
Chair of Governors: Mrs. Lesley Hutton
Incumbent: Rev. Jennie Bradshaw
Inspector: Ms Jan Thompson (NS 92)
Inspection: 30th November 2009

SUMMARY JUDGEMENT

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

Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School is a good Church school.

Grade 2: Good

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Wouldham All Saints is a small Voluntary Controlled Church of England primary school that serves the village of Wouldham, near Rochester. Its 112 pupils are mostly White British and about seven of these are from church families. Ofsted judged the school to be satisfactory, with strong signs of improvement. Attainment is broadly average, with pupils making satisfactory progress.

ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS

- A strong Christian ethos that results in excellent relationships throughout the school.
- Very good provision for Collective Worship.
- The committed Christian leadership of the headteacher, well supported by the chair of governors.

FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Make better use of the school environment to promote pupils' spiritual development.
- Focus on improving the impact of worship on pupils.
- Improve Religious Education by better use of the level descriptions.

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners? Grade 2: Good

The school's Christian Mission Statement centres upon 'A love of God and a love for others.' This teaching of Jesus is lived out in the life of the school, resulting in a happy, friendly community where everyone cares for each other. Relationships are very good at all levels. Pupils behave well and learn to respect others. They like the new, child-friendly version of the mission statement: 'Flying HIGH', which starts with H for 'Happy to be God's special children.' Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are good and are well supported by Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship. For example, studying the Parable of the Prodigal Son helps pupils to consider the importance of forgiveness and the Christian teaching that we should forgive others because God forgives us. The school supports a number of Christian charities, often in association with the local church, such as Christian Aid Week and the Christmas shoe box appeal. Pupils are reminded of these charities by posters around the school. The school has made a good attempt since the last inspection to use its environment to promote pupils' spiritual development. Most successful has been a prayer table in the main entrance, which pupils make good use of. However, pupils say that they tend to ignore the Christian areas in their classrooms because they are not interactive. A weekly Christian club, run by King's Squad, is well attended and contributes well to pupils' Christian education.

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

Grade 2: Good

Worship is of a high quality, enhanced by good use of a large screen and data projector. It is well-organised on themes chosen by the headteacher, following the Church's Year. Pupils are consistently engaged during Collective Worship and participate very well in the singing. Last year, most of the Year 6 pupils took turns to lead whole-school Collective Worship, which was enjoyed by the rest of the school. Pupils as young as Year 1 are now confident to come out to the front of the hall and say their own prayers. Pupils are mostly positive when asked about their experience of Collective Worship, commenting particularly on visitors such as the Family Trust, who make worship fun. When interviewed, pupils explained that the purpose of worship was to remember God and to bring the whole school together. They did not readily mention the value of prayer, although the school has put a lot of emphasis on this since the last inspection. Pupils have a good experience of Anglican tradition and practice, such as the regular use of a liturgical greeting at the beginning of Collective Worship, and they focus on the symbols of the cross and candle. They also celebrate special festivals in church, including Candlemas. Last Easter was celebrated with a whole-school Eucharist, and Year 6 pupils participate in the Eucharist at the Church Schools festival in Rochester Cathedral.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school? Grade 2: Good

The headteacher continues to lead this school with Christian commitment and is well supported in this by the new chair of governors, who is a Foundation Governor and very involved in the daily life of the school. The school's self-evaluation as a church school is completed annually by a small committee, and it feeds into the school improvement plan. However, judgements are not shared with the whole governing body and parents have not yet been surveyed. The school's survey of pupils has thrown up some negative responses to Collective Worship and Religious Education, which the school is addressing. The school is not yet making good use of the level descriptions in planning RE lessons. Adults associated with the school recognise the Christian influence on the school's ethos, but the distinctive Christian values of the school have not yet been clearly identified. Teachers are very supportive of the school as a church school. They all take turns in leading worship and derive inspiration from daily Collective Worship and the school Eucharists. A very enjoyable day on spiritual development was organised at Aylesford Priory for the staff of three local church primary schools at the end of last Summer Term. There is a good partnership between the school and the local church, even though the Rector is part-time and has two parishes. The school also makes good use of special school events in Rochester Cathedral, which the pupils enjoy. Parents like the Christian education that their children receive and support them in things like making Christmas Cribs for a competition at the beginning of Advent.