



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Weald Drive
Furnace Green
Crawley
RH10 6NU

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Good

Diocese: Chichester

Local authority: West Sussex
Dates of inspection: 7 October 2015
Date of last inspection: 25-26 May 2010
School's unique reference number: 126047
Headteacher: Elizabeth Dickenson
Inspector's name and number: Julie Burnett-Kirk 748

School context

St Andrew's Primary School has 198 pupils and is situated in the urban area of Crawley. Over half the children come from the neighbouring areas of Furnace Green and Tilgate. The proportion of children who have special educational needs is above the national average and thirty three children are eligible for pupil premium. An above average proportion of children speak English as an additional language. The school and the parish church are on the one site and share facilities. In June 2015 Ofsted judged the school as 'Requires Improvement'. The school was awarded 'The Bishop's Commendation' in 2012.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Andrews as a Church of England school are good

- Deeply embedded Christian values have a clear impact on the spiritual development and well-being of the whole school community
- Religious education (RE) is effectively taught through varied creative experiences resulting in reflective and confident learners
- Prayer and collective worship (CW) make a strong impact on the spiritual, social, moral and cultural (SMSC) development of the children
- Strong relationships with the parish vicar, church workers and other clergy make a valuable contribution to the school.

Areas to improve

- Improve self-evaluation as a church school through more effective links with school improvement processes
- Improve the range of opportunities for stillness and further develop reflection through

deep questions so that children extend their spiritual development

- Involve children to a greater extent in the monitoring and evaluation of CW and use their views to identify future improvement.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners

Explicit Christian values such as honesty, compassion, trust, humility and hope have been a focus for the school over many years. Portfolios of work, conversations with the children, parents, staff, church workers and governors highlight how these values shape positive and accepting relationships in the whole school community. Trust was explored through the bible story of Peter stepping out of the boat and children responded in different ways such as 'I would have stepped out of the boat, although I would be scared, I would trust in Jesus knowing he will keep me safe.' Religious education strongly influences the Christian character of the school and children's spiritual development. For example, children easily spoke about their faith and wrote: 'faith means to me that I have eyes to see the future with God and I know that he will help me to learn things at school.' Children have a good understanding that the school is an inclusive community where everyone is treated with respect regardless of their beliefs or background. Many parents, including those of other faiths, talked about how they value the Christian character of the school and that it was usually their main reason for choosing the school. Good care is taken to assess and monitor the learning and well-being needs of all children and to provide support and intervention when it is needed. As a result, progress and attainment are improving for all children including those with special educational needs. The school and church work in close partnership to provide pastoral support for families, staff and children. The children and families worker is employed full time by the church and supports worship, RE, transition for new parents and lunchtime clubs 'Megamix' for the seventy children who attend each week. The vicar provides pastoral support for staff and families and is well supported by a team from Anglican and other churches. Previous issues with attendance have been dealt with in a caring, Christian manner and show a good impact with improved attendance which is now broadly in line with national averages. Lesson observations, harvest worship, RE work, charitable work and conversations with children show a deep compassion for others around them both locally and worldwide.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship is carefully planned with themes that link to Christian values, the church calendar and the Bible. This ensures that children develop an understanding of Jesus and impacts on their spiritual development as well as the Christian character of the school. For example, their inspiring extended harvest service in the church was planned over a number of weeks to link the theme of thinking about others especially refugees, the values of love and compassion and Jesus as a refugee. Collective worship takes place daily and children's experience is varied through a range of senior leaders and a team of clergy. The church is used weekly for their celebration services, which are regularly attended by many families, who value the close links with the church. Children describe the church as 'light that reminds me of Jesus', 'a calm and religious place where you can pray' and a 'child friendly church' as well as how worship 'makes them feel different' and how they 'praise Jesus a lot, sing songs and have stories about Jesus.' The trinity is included in their themes for worship. Prayer is central throughout the school and children of all ages can talk confidently about prayer. For example, a Year One child explained that when she prays 'I put my hands together and say "Dear God please look after my people who live nearby," and then I say, "amen".' Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of the school community through weekly prayer groups for teachers and parents and the Megamix children's lunchtime club. Portfolios show exciting and creative approaches to prayer that have been reviewed, evaluated and changed over time so that they effectively engage children, staff and families in prayerful experiences. Parents described how their children pray at home

spontaneously as well as say the Lord's Prayer and grace before meals. Children's views have been sought about worship, however the school has not fully addressed this issue from the previous inspection.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

The RE curriculum provides children with rich experiences that are well planned and enhanced through Godly Play. Christianity is the main study and an appropriate proportion of time allocated to other faiths ensures that children have a good understanding of a breadth of religions. Standards in RE are at least in line with national expectations and children make good progress from their starting points. Assessment has improved since the previous inspection and uses a range of resources to assess accurately the children's work. Leadership of RE is good through a shared role between the headteacher and senior leader, who evaluate effectiveness through planned lesson observations, focused learning walks and work scrutiny. Where teachers are identified as needing extra support more experienced RE teachers mentor and coach to ensure the quality of teaching and learning are good. The school has had a particular approach to reflection, which is built into RE lesson times and eight exciting RE 'journey' days throughout the year. Children are encouraged to use 'big questions' to become 'big thinkers'. The year five class reflected deeply about 'what is faith?' and faith in action through their work about the Salvation Army. In all the RE lessons observed and in the portfolios of RE work, it could be seen that teaching begins with children's everyday experiences, moves to biblical teaching and then looks at what this means in daily life. Children's work in RE, displays and assessment records show good development in all areas of SMSC. All children are given bibles in Year 3. Outside visitors enrich their experiences. For example, the Barnabas Trust used Godly play on their visit linked to 'World War and Remembrance' and 'What price Peace?'. Opportunities are used to ensure different faiths are valued. For example, a Year 6 pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral enabled Muslim children to talk about their faith and their parent's journey to Mecca.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good

Christian values have supported the school through its school improvement journey. The school's vision to provide a 'Christian learning community where the God given potential of each child is sought and celebrated' is evident in the improved standards of achievement and the well-being of the school community. The headteacher and senior leadership team have a strong commitment to the Christian vision of the school and many of the staff speak confidently about their commitment to the vision. This vision and mission is shared by the church. The vicar and team of clergy ensure that there are very close links, not only with St. Andrew's Church but also with the whole of the Southgate Parish. Foundation governors are involved in some monitoring in the school. Although the school demonstrates strengths in school self evaluation, this isn't used currently to drive forward their identified priorities. The arrangements for RE and worship meet statutory requirements. One of the senior leaders is acting deputy for one day a week in another school thus contributing to future leadership in church schools. The school has effective relationships with the deanery and the diocese. Parents feel that they are included in the school community and well supported. They spoke highly of the school's Christian values and described how their children often pray at home, sing the worship songs and talk about the 'big questions' they have been thinking about in RE.

SIAMS report October 2015 St Andrew's CE VA Primary School Crawley RH10 6NU