

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Rumboldswyke Church of England Infants' School

Rumbolds Close, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 7UA	
Current SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Diocese	Chichester
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Local authority	West Sussex
Date of inspection	10 July 2018
Date of last inspection	22 March 2013
Type of school and unique reference number	Voluntary Controlled 125975
Headteacher	Fiona Sayce
Inspector's name and number	Gillian Bradnam 935

School context

The school is situated in South Chichester. The majority of pupils come from the school's catchment area, which is an area of deprivation. It is much smaller than the average primary school. Due to a range of local factors pupil numbers have decreased significantly to 88 since the last inspection. Pupils are predominantly of White British heritage, with the proportion of boys much higher than the national average. The number of pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs is well above the national average. The proportion of disadvantaged pupils supported by the pupil premium and those speaking English as an additional language is below the national average. There have been significant staff changes since the last inspection, including a new RE lead and parish priest.

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

- The distinctive Christian ethos, demonstrated in the nurturing and caring pastoral care and relationships across the school community, enhances pupils' personal development.
- Pupils understand and explain that the school's distinctively Christian values have a significant impact on their daily lives and behaviour.
- Pupils have diverse opportunities to develop their spirituality through collective worship, RE and times for prayer and reflection during the school day.
- The school's strong Christian values consistently inform decisions in all areas of school life.
- The school has strong relationships, securely established with parents and with the parish church of St George's.

Areas to improve

- Review the school vision to ensure it is explicitly rooted in biblical teaching and is shared with everyone to clarify how the Christian foundation of the school influences all policy and practice.
- Continue to monitor the consistency and effectiveness of initiatives to improve the academic outcome of pupils, underpinned by the school's vision and values. Extend monitoring to include how adults as well as pupils have opportunities to flourish.
- Ensure that all governors can articulate the impact of the school's Christian vision on collective worship and religious education and how it has informed decisions made by governors.
- Promote further opportunities for staff and governors to develop as leaders of church schools.

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

Rumboldswyke is a very welcoming, caring and inclusive Christian community where all pupils are individually known and highly valued. A strong Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life, due to the strength of the school's vision and Christian values. The school's Christian character is evident across the school through the engaging and interactive displays and reflection areas, the numerous colourful crosses and a range of artwork, including mosaics and the school plaque with St George. The ethos and sense of family strongly underpin curriculum provision and the high quality of care and relationships across the school community. In addition, the school promotes healthy lifestyle choices to the pupils.

As a result of the school's well-embedded practices in relation to children transitioning to and from the school, pupils settle into the school quickly and happily and are equally well prepared to move on to the next stage of their education.

Parents praise the school for its care and nurture of pupils. Pupils are happy and secure as a result of this and take responsibility for their own actions and learning. The majority of behaviour is very good, with pupils readily identifying the link to the school's value of respect. Consequently, relationships at all levels are good because of the links with the Christian values. The attendance of the vast majority of pupils is good because children enjoy school and there is very effective follow-up when necessary to ensure the inclusivity of all pupils.

Overall pupil outcomes from summer 2018 data show significant improvement compared to 2017, with an ongoing upward trend of improvement in recent years. In addition, the school's internal data indicates that in 2018 all pupils made the national expectations in relation to progress from EYFS to the end of Key Stage 1. These outcomes are underpinned by the strong Christian ethos in which pupils learn, which raises their self-esteem, resilience and perseverance. Pupil achievements, whether academic or relating to the school values of care and kindness, are celebrated in weekly achievement assemblies.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) is good, supported effectively by the Christian ethos, RE and the wider curriculum. The school has increased the range of extra-curricular opportunities and this has been well received by families. Pupils learn about a number of cultures and faiths in RE and are interested to explore how different faiths see the person Jesus Christ. Parents value the moral and ethical foundations that the school provides, enabling their children to ask questions and have opportunities to decide for themselves if they wish to follow the Christian faith or not. To develop the pupils' understanding of the global nature of Christianity, the school is in the process of actioning global experience activities in school. Pupils are developing their sense of social responsibility and making a positive difference through involvement in local, national international charities.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is an important part of the daily life of the school and is effective in promoting the school's Christian values as well as supporting pupils' spiritual and moral development. It is valued by the school community as a way of bringing everyone together to worship God and of showing their care for each other. Worship begins with the lighting of a candle and pupils can articulate an age appropriate understanding of the meaning of this symbolism; that it represents God the Father being everywhere, all around us. Collective worship has helped pupils to link Christian values to Christ's teaching, and pupils regularly reference learning about Jesus Christ. They are aware of the significance of the life of Jesus Christ through the Bible stories that they hear during worship and are able to talk about what it means to them, whether they have a faith or no faith. Pupils are helped consistently to apply what they are learning to their everyday lives, for example the courage of Daniel in the lions den reminded them of the importance of not telling lies. Similarly, the courage of Jesus dying on the cross reminded them of God's love for them and that they can ask God for help when they need more courage and guidance.

Senior leaders, or the vicar or curate of St George's church generally leads collective worship. Pupils are enthusiastic about collective worship; they enjoy singing and contribute by answering questions and participating in drama. Pupils have some opportunities to help plan and lead worship through class assemblies. They also provide feedback about worship by sharing what they have learnt or enjoyed.

Pupils have a rich and varied experience of worship which develops their understanding of worship practices and traditions. Parents and carers welcome the opportunity to join with the school at St George's church for several services during the school year, including the Year 2 leavers' service. Key Christian festivals are celebrated and pupils have some awareness of these. Pupils regularly share Bible stories, songs and prayers at home prompting discussions in families where there are mixed attitudes to religious faith. Pupils have an age appropriate awareness of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as a result of regular references in collective worship and reinforced by the Trinity pillars in the spiritual garden. Prayer is an important part of the daily life of the school. Pupils know a number of prayers and write their own. Both pupils and adults enjoy the opportunities provided throughout the day for prayer and reflection.

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

The school's distinctively Christian vision and values are modelled consistently to pupils by senior leaders and staff. All decisions relating to school improvement are shaped by the school's Christian character. Senior leaders prioritise raising academic outcomes at the school. The headteacher and senior leaders have refined the school's self-evaluation so that it is more accurate, enabling the school development plans to identify more precisely where improvement is needed and how it will be addressed. Improved pupil outcomes summer 2018 demonstrate the positive impact of these changes.

The governors are very supportive of the school's Christian values but leaders have yet to refine these to a manageable number. Although the school's ethos is deeply Christian, the biblical underpinning of the vision is not explicit. Awareness of the impact of the Christian values across collective worship and RE is currently limited to the foundation governors rather than the governing body as a whole.

The school has embraced working with a number of partners to help raise standards. The local authority and partnerships with schools in the Solent Teaching School Alliance are supporting the school in its drive to improve academic outcomes. The associated training for staff has increased further their knowledge and confidence in relation to a number of key areas. In addition the new RE lead has received both training from the diocese and mentoring within the school, demonstrating the school's commitment to RE as a core subject. Staff have also received RE support during staff meetings. Strong links with the diocese support school improvement and strengthens Christian distinctiveness.

There is an effective partnership with the parish church and pupils benefit from these rich opportunities to experience Anglican practices and traditions. Parents, pupils, staff, senior leaders and governors value the strong, mutually beneficial relationship with St George's church that strengthens the spiritual life of the school community as a whole and the lives of individual pupils.

Partnerships with parents and carers are good. They speak highly of the headteacher and the staff team as a whole for the care and support that they give to individual pupils and families. Parents and carers are reminded of the Christian distinctiveness of the school through regular newsletters, including information about school services at St George's church and shared community events between the church and school.

The school meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship.

SIAMS report July 2018, Rumboldswyke Church of England Infants' School, PO19 7UA