



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hart Road

Byfleet

Surrey

KT14 7NJ

Previous SIAS grade: Good

Current SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Guildford

Local authority: Surrey

Dates of inspection: 5 February, 2016

Date of last inspection: 21 January, 2011

School's unique reference number: 125150

Headteacher: Helen Austin

Inspector's name and number: Dr Peter Simpson NSI 192

School context

St Mary's Church of England Primary School is a large voluntary controlled primary school serving 450 children from the village of Byfleet and the surrounding area. The percentage of learners eligible for pupil premium and the proportion with special educational needs is below the national average. A new deputy headteacher and senior leadership team has been appointed since the last inspection in January 2011.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Mary's Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The school's distinctively Christian mission and values are clearly articulated, understood and lived out by learners and staff
- Learners outcomes have improved and the school demonstrates a strong determination and clear strategy to ensure further improvement
- Leadership is very effective and provides clear direction and purpose based upon the school's overt and strong Christian values
- Links with the parish and the wider community are strong

Areas to improve

In addition to the continuing development of strategies to improve learners attainment and progress the school should consider:

- Arranging collective worship in different sized groups so that learners can participate more fully.

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

The school has explicit Christian values which are understood, articulated and lived out by all members of school community. Learners are able to describe the importance of the values to their daily lives and can explain why these values will be important to them in their future lives. In classrooms pupils relate values to their learning which has engendered very positive attitudes to learning and personal development. The school is completely inclusive and respects all learners and their families. All adults in the school are good role models and promote an ethos of care and respect. The school environment demonstrates its care and respect for learners through high quality display which values the endeavours of the whole school community. Learners' attainment and progress across the curriculum has improved further since the Ofsted inspection (January 2015). School data shows that the strategies for improvement are effective and have resulted in learners making good progress. Teaching for all learners provides challenge and support so that they can make optimum progress.

Disadvantaged children and those with special educational needs and disabilities are catching up with their peers. Learners have a very well developed sense of social, cultural and moral values based upon the school's explicitly Christian values which are effectively promoted across the whole curriculum. Religious Education, which is well-planned and expertly taught, provides a very effective framework to explore the school's values in depth. Learners are excited by Religious Education and enthusiastically rise to the challenge of new and complex concepts. Work on comparative religions promotes respect and tolerance so that every individual is valued in their own right. Opportunities for quiet reflection and prayer enhances learners' spiritual development. Relationships between learners, learners and adults and between all adults is excellent. This results in a high standard of learner behaviour which is supporting good and improving learning. Clergy from St Mary's Church provide valuable support for the school representing a genuine partnership which is constantly evolving. The school has an authentic relationship with the parish and the wider community it serves.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is an important part of the life of the school. It is well planned and led and linked to the school's values and the Church's year. Planning is supported by clergy whose contribution to the life of the school is valued by learners, staff and parents. Records show a range of opportunities for learners to experience different worship styles, venues and collective groupings with appropriate emphasis on Christian teaching and Biblical material. There are opportunities for learners to participate in worship and the school is considering extending that range so that there are more opportunities for worship in smaller groups when active participation for all learners can be more easily encouraged. All learners take part in assemblies demonstrating the school's inclusive approach to worship. The parish church of St Mary's provides the setting for Church services including those for Harvest, Easter and Christmas which enable learners to experience the Anglican traditions of the school. Learners celebrate their transition to the next stage in their education with a 'Leavers' Service' held in the parish church. Themes encourage praise and reflection and involve learners appropriately. Learners are involved in some evaluation of worship which is undertaken and this is being developed further so that it can inform future planning.

Statutory requirements for collective worship are met.

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

The school has clear, explicit values which are embodied in all the school does. All leaders have a clear understanding of the impact of Christian values on the lives of learners. This is demonstrated through the explicit focus on the education and development of the whole child. The whole curriculum is based upon the school's values and this promotes good attitudes to learning. Conversations with learners show that there is a real depth to their understanding of the values of the school. This is illustrated by learners who are clear that the values will enable them to leave St Mary's as confident individuals who are well prepared for the next stage in their education and for life after school. The headteacher and senior leadership team provide excellent leadership of this distinctively Christian school. Together with all staff and committed governing body, they provide a clear direction and purpose based upon an explicit intention that the whole child should be educated. Parents and carers are an integral part of the school working together to support both individual children and the whole school community. St Mary's is held in high esteem by the wider community and is actively involved with the Church and the whole village. New staff are well-inducted into their role. They are supported by colleagues and well-prepared for challenges which enable them to make a positive contribution to the lives of the learners. All adults provide excellent role models for the learners in living out the school's mission.

The school has appropriately addressed the range of issues raised in the last inspection and has tackled them with great enthusiasm whilst focusing on meeting the needs of all learners.

SIAMS report February 2016 St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Byfleet KT14 7NJ