



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### Christ Church Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School

Christ Church Road  
Virginia Water  
Surrey  
GU25 4PX

**Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding**

**Current inspection grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Guildford**

Local authority: Surrey

Dates of inspection: 1 July, 2016

Date of last inspection: 10 March, 2011

School's unique reference number: 125175

Headteacher: Miss Lisa Wallage

Inspector's name and number: Dr Peter Simpson 192

#### School context

Christ Church (Aided) Infant School is smaller than average with 80 children on roll. The school provides for learners from a range of cultural backgrounds which reflects the national average. The percentage of learners with special educational needs or disabilities and those eligible for pupil premium is below the national average.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Christ Church Church of England Infant School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The school's Christian values are central to the life of learners at Christ Church
- The school has an inclusive and nurturing approach to the education of all learners which enables them to develop as independent and confident learners
- The partnership between the school and the parish of Christ Church is strong, to mutual benefit.
- The high levels of engagement and participation in learning lead to good outcomes for learners, ensuring they are well-prepared for the next stage in their education.

#### Areas to improve

- Develop the opportunities for learners to plan, prepare and lead worship
- Provide greater challenge for the most able learners in Religious Education

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

The school's vision is to be an outstanding, distinctly Christian school; where each child achieves their full potential with confidence, independence and enthusiasm. The vision is underpinned by the Christian values of: friendship, thankfulness, perseverance, respect, justice and courage. These values are integral to the work of the school, including its curriculum. The values which are firmly rooted in Christian principles and are clearly understood by learners who are able to explain both the value and its use in everyday life. The youngest learners demonstrate their understanding of the values whilst adults reinforce this understanding through skilfully integrating the values in learning activities. Learners respect and care about each other. They show good attitudes to learning and to peers. Relationships throughout the school are excellent.

Learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is effective. Careful planning ensures that opportunities for spiritual development are capitalised upon and built into activities across the curriculum. Learners understand cultural and religious differences whilst recognising similarities. They respect the beliefs of others of different faiths or no faith. Moral and social development is a strong feature of this school. Learners demonstrate a clear understanding of right from wrong and are caring and supportive of each other. They feel safe and free from any kind of bullying.

Learners' attainment is above the national average. For the last five years attainment has been significantly above the national average when taking all the reported core subjects together. Analysis of recent assessment information demonstrates that learners are making good progress to reach national expectations across the newly shaped curriculum.

The partnership with the parish church is a strength and enriches the lives of all learners and the wider community of the school.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Learners place an importance on collective worship which adds value to the life of the school. Worship is planned carefully and appropriately around the school's Christian values and the church's year. They experience worship in a variety of settings. Full school assemblies, class group assemblies and Church services provide a rich framework in which they experience adult-led and child-led worship. Whole school worship is led by school staff, clergy, parish workers and other groups or individuals. The parish church of Christ Church is regularly used for school worship where learners and their parents/carers attend special services such as the welcome service and the service for the school leavers. The school is central to the church's Education Sunday service which celebrates the work of education. There is a clear integration of the church and the school as they support each other in the mission of distinctively Christian education.

There is some evaluation of the impact of worship on the learners themselves which influences future planning and this evaluation will be further developed as the school plans for the setting up of a children's worship committee. Learners enjoy acts of worship and understand its value in teaching them about Jesus and appreciate how the lessons learned relate to real life. They are clear that class groupings for worship enables them to explore more deeply Bible stories and the life of Jesus. The quality of worship is yet to be regularly and systematically monitored and evaluated by staff and governors.

Learners have opportunities for personal prayer at key times of the school day and through the use of a reflection spaces in each classroom. Prayer trees are regular features in the school which encourage the learners to share their personal prayers with their class. There are fewer opportunities for learners to plan and lead worship which the school is seeking to address. The school meets the statutory requirements for collective worship.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

The religious education curriculum, based on the Guildford Diocesan Guidelines, is well planned providing an appropriate programme for all learners. Individual lesson, long and medium term plans provide a strong yet appropriately flexible framework for the teaching of religious education across the school. Scrutiny of planning, learners' work and discussion with learners confirms that there is appropriate emphasis on the teaching of Christianity and other religions. A range of teaching styles enable learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of facts and concepts, supported by a variety of appropriate resources which encourage investigation and enquiry. Learners demonstrate a good understanding of facts about different religions and a respectful approach to people of all or no religion. Learners are confident to express their opinions in the knowledge that their contribution will be valued and respected.

The quality of religious education is effective in supporting learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The standard of religious education achieved is in line with the standards achieved across the other core subjects. Attainment is tracked carefully and reported. The headteacher monitors the quality of teaching in RE and her accurate judgements lead to further improvement.

The parish church of Christ Church is an excellent resource providing first-hand activities and experience of an Anglican place of worship.

Whilst those learners who find difficulty are very well supported there should be greater challenge for the more able so that they achieve more and derive a higher level of satisfaction from their learning.

The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education.

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

The headteacher and governing body of the school have a very clear and coherent understanding of its strengths and areas for development. The headteacher has a strong and passionate belief in providing a distinctively Christian education to all learners at Christ Church. She is well supported and appropriately challenged by the governing body which is dedicated to providing high quality education in this small Church of England school. There is a clear strategy for self-evaluation leading to further improvement which is informed by robust monitoring and evaluation. All leaders are committed to ensuring that the distinctively Christian ethos is protected and enhanced as is evident in all the processes from appointing new staff to the formulation of the next school improvement plan.

The headteacher is an outstanding role model as the professional leader of the school. She provides the leadership for religious education and worship whilst holding the key responsibility of headteacher. She has taken difficult decisions but always demonstrated her care, compassion and respect and modelled the school's Christian values. All adults are excellent role models, living the school's values in their interactions with learners and each other.

The school is fully inclusive; appropriately supporting and challenging all its learners. The clearly articulated Christian values inform the ethos and culture of the school. The strong partnership with the parish church benefits the whole school community. The school is integrated into the parish and takes both leading and supporting roles in its Christian mission.

The area for development in the last report has received appropriate focus.

SIAMS report July, 2016. Christ Church CE (VA) Infant School GU25 4PX