



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Horsell Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School

Meadway Drive  
Horsell  
Woking  
GU21 4TA

**Previous SIAMS grade: Good**

**Current inspection grade: Good**

**Diocese: Guildford**

Local authority: Surrey

Dates of inspection: 18 March, 2016

Date of last inspection: 17 November, 2010

School's unique reference number: 125201

Headteacher: Mrs Jessica Steele

Inspector's name and number: Dr Peter Simpson 192

#### School context

Horsell Church of England (Aided) Junior School is a larger than average junior school with 357 children on roll. The majority of learners are of White British Heritage. The percentage of learners with special educational needs or disabilities and those eligible for pupil premium is significantly below the national average. Since the last inspection the Senior Leadership Team has been restructured. There are now four assistant headteachers supporting the headteacher by taking specific leadership of key areas.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Horsell Church of England Junior School as a Church of England school are good

- The school's approach to the education of each learner as an individual
- The high quality relationships and exemplary behaviour of learners
- The high levels of engagement and participation in learning
- Outcomes for learners are good and improving, ensuring they are well-prepared for the next stage in their education.
- The partnership between the school and the parish of St Mary's is well-developed and makes a positive contribution to the lives of learners

#### Areas to improve

- Develop a systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating the quality and impact of worship which is integrated into the whole school development plan
- Ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of learning in Religious Education is rigorous and effective in bringing about further improvement

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

The school's motto of 'Everyone Matters; Everyone Learns' is embodied in the work of the school. The school's values are firmly rooted in Christian principles and are understood by learners. They understand how the values relate to everyday life and apply these to their behaviour. Learners respect and value each other as individuals and show good attitudes to their learning and to all their peers. Relationships between learners and adults are excellent.

Learners are articulate and confident and have a good understanding of how to support each other which is demonstrated by excellent behaviour and their open friendship towards each other.

Learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is effective. They understand cultural differences and respect the beliefs of others of different faiths or no faith. There is a strong evidence of effective moral and social development which is respected by all learners and adults. Opportunities for spiritual development are capitalised upon through special focus days, such as 'Pause Days'.

Learners' attainment has been significantly above the national average for the last five years and pupil progress has improved so that in 2015 it was in line with the national average. Analysis of recent assessment information demonstrates that learners are making good progress across the newly shaped curriculum.

The partnership with St Mary's 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 good**

Learners place an importance on collective worship which adds value to the life of the school. Worship is planned around the school's Christian values and the church's year. The learners experience a range of adult and learner-led worship. Whole school worship is regularly led by school staff, the vicar, the children and families' worker and the 'Open The Book' team from St Mary's. Other adults and in particular members of different faith groups are invited to lead worship on special occasions through the year.

Planning is co-ordinated by the Worship Leader which enables there to be a framework for acts of worship, however there is no systematic evaluation of the impact of worship on the learners. Learners and their families are invited to school acts of worship in St Mary's Church at Easter, Christmas and Harvest which enhances the learners' knowledge and understanding of Anglican traditions. A school eucharist enables learners to both participate and understand the significance of a central celebration in the Anglican tradition. The clergy and other members of the parish team are actively involved in both the planning and delivery of the programme of worship which enables learners to experience cohesive themes delivered in different styles. Learners have opportunities for personal prayer at key times during the school day; during acts of worship and grace before lunch. A weekly prayer group gives learners opportunity for personal prayer. A prayer and reflection room is available and used by learners during all pause days. The quality of worship is yet to be regularly and systematically monitored and evaluated by staff and governors.

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. Long and medium term plans provide a secure framework for the teaching of religious education across the school. There is appropriate emphasis on the teaching of Christianity and other religions which is demonstrated through planning, scrutiny of work and discussion with learners. The development of learners'

knowledge and understanding of facts and concepts is supported by a variety of effective teaching styles which encourage investigation and enquiry. Learners have a good understanding of challenging concepts and are confident to express their ideas in the knowledge that all their contributions are valued and respected.

The standard of religious education achieved by learners, as verified by lesson observation, work scrutiny and discussion is good and in line with the attainment in other core subjects. Learners demonstrate a mature approach to exploring the similarities and differences between the beliefs of different faiths. The school's marking policy challenges learners' thinking through higher order questioning ('Think Pink').

The parish church of St Mary's is an excellent resource providing first-hand experience of an Anglican place of worship. Learners visit the Woking Mosque as an integral part of their studies into religions and cultures enabling them to broaden their understanding of religious beliefs and practices in modern day Britain.

The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education.

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

The headteacher and leadership team have a very clear and accurate understanding of its strengths and areas for development. The focus of the headteacher and the four assistant headteachers on specific areas for development has provided a strong leadership structure. There is a clear strategy for further improvement informed by robust monitoring and evaluation which concentrates on the development of each child as an individual. The leadership team together with the governing body have designed a robust improvement plan, which has been effective in improving learners' progress, whilst ensuring that the distinctive Christian character of the school has been developed further.

Adults are excellent role models, reinforcing the school's values and behaviours in their interactions with learners and each other. New staff are supported when they join the school so that they quickly play a full part in the life of Horsell Junior School.

The school is inclusive in all that it does; supporting and challenging all its learners. The school's clearly articulated Christian values inform the ethos and culture of the school. The strong partnership with St Mary's Church benefits the whole school community.

The areas for development in the last report have been appropriately and successfully addressed by the school.

SIAMS report March, 2016. Horsell CE (VA) Junior School GU21 4TA