

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

### St Mark's Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Queen's Road, Farnborough. GU14 6DU	
<b>Current SIAMS inspection grade</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Guildford</b>
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Local authority	Hampshire
Name of multi-academy trust / federation [delete as appropriate]	Not Applicable
Date/s of inspection	11 November, 2016
Date of last inspection	9 December, 2011
Type of school and unique reference number	116389
Headteacher	Annabel Stocchetti
Inspector's name and number	Peter Simpson 192

#### School context

St Mark's is a smaller than average sized primary school with 105 on roll serving an increasing diverse community. The number of learners with Special Educational Needs or disabilities is well below the national average. The headteacher was appointed in September 2015 and a new deputy took up post in September 2016

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Mark's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The school's Christian values of Challenge, Integrity, Respect, Community, Love and Equality (CIRCLE) permeate every aspect of the school and make a strong positive impact on the lives of all learners who know, understand and apply them.
- High standards in the core subjects including Religious Education demonstrate the quality of the learning experience and prepare learners well for the next stage in their education.
- Learners are articulate and confident.
- Relationships are excellent with all members of the school community living out the Christian values.
- The impact of the headteacher of the school as an excellent role model.
- The school continues to seek further improvement.

#### Areas to improve

- The school should consider other groupings for acts of worship on occasions, so that learners can participate more fully in smaller groups.
- Governors, whilst well informed, should consider greater use of available information to consolidate their knowledge of standards in religious education.

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

The school's Christian values of Challenge, Integrity, Respect, Community, Love and Equality (CIRCLE) are central to the life of this school. The CIRCLE values are displayed in prominent positions throughout the school and crucially in classrooms where they are integral to each lesson. They are known, understood and lived out by all the school community. Learners understand how these values impact on their lives and on their learning. A group of learners described the values as 'a set of rules to live by which help us to be the best people we can be.' Curriculum planning is designed to develop both the school's Christian values and spirituality which enables learners to thrive. Learners' behaviour is excellent.

Standards are above the national average in each key stage. At the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage the percentage of children achieving a good level of development is well above the national average. The proportion of learners achieving the expected standard in phonics by the end of Year 1 is above the national average. Attainment at Key Stage 1 is high with all learners achieving the expected standard or better in reading, writing and mathematics. At the end of Key Stage 2 attainment is higher than the national average and pupil progress is at least in line with the national average for reading and mathematics whilst being in the top 10 percent for writing. Attendance is good and there have been no exclusions.

The excellent relationships across the whole school community provide a safe and secure environment where learners are free to question and challenge in a respectful environment, knowing that their contribution will be valued and that they themselves are respected as individuals. There is a good understanding of and respect for the beliefs of people of other faiths. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is strong.

The school environment is attractive and well-ordered with varied high quality interactive displays of children's work which demonstrates how well learners are valued and respected. The school provides an excellent 'family feeling' in which each member of the school community has an important place and a sense of belonging.

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

Great value is placed upon collective worship which is well-planned and integral to the school's CIRCLE values. Themes are designed around the school's values and form a cohesive and relevant framework. Learners experience a range of worship styles led by school staff, appropriate outside agencies and local clergy. The school worships in the parish church at least five times a year where learners have a leading role in the services, which strengthens their understanding of the Anglican tradition.

Learners lead prayers and sections of worship appropriately in the daily act of worship and have access to prayer spaces in every classroom to enable quiet reflection and prayer. Learners write their own personal prayers which are always valued and respected. Learners value worship and can articulate how it affects their lives in school and beyond.

The children's spirituality committee and the governing body have evaluated the quality of worship with a view to enabling the school's leadership to initiate changes so that the needs of all learners are continually met.

Currently learners worship together as either a whole school or as separate key stages. The programme of collective worship does not yet allow for class groupings where learners could participate more in a small group.

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship.

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

The standards of attainment in religious education are high which is demonstrated by the school's robust assessment process, scrutiny of learners' work, displays and direct observation of lessons.

Planning is detailed and well designed to ensure that learners access an appropriate and challenging curriculum based on the Guildford Diocesan Guidelines. The planning is structured so that the school's Christian values and opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are fully supported by the curriculum content.

There is appropriate emphasis on Christianity and other world faiths and learners demonstrate a good understanding of the beliefs of their own and other cultures which they willingly share with each other. The quality of teaching is strong and enables learners to explore knowledge, ideas and beliefs in a challenging yet safe environment, using a range of very effective techniques.

Learners are enthusiastic about religious education and show a genuine interest in both the content of lessons and the varied activities which stimulate their thinking. They have excellent behaviours for learning demonstrating a mature approach which enables them to master knowledge and skills in a supportive environment where all opinions are valued and respected.

The school meets the statutory requirements for RE.

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

There is a clear vision shared by the whole school community. The governing body, school staff, parents and learners themselves, all articulate the Christian values of Challenge, Integrity, Respect, Community, Love and Equality (CIRCLE). These values are embedded into the heart of everything the school does and have a positive impact on the lives of the learners served by the school.

The school staff, led by the headteacher who is an excellent role model, ensure that the school's values are integrated into every aspect of school life, which has promoted high standards of both attainment and pupil progress. These values have promoted learners' independence, self-confidence and respect for each other and themselves so that they leave St Mark's well prepared for their secondary school education. All adults in the school are committed to the Christian values and to providing the best possible learning experiences. The teamwork and shared values enable learners to receive the best possible education.

The headteacher ensures that new staff are well-supported when they join the school so that their unique contribution to the values and work of St Mark's can be quickly harnessed to the benefit of the learners. There is a well-structured programme of professional development which is designed to provide appropriate training for all staff. There is a strong emphasis on maintaining and developing the distinctive Christian character of the school. The school's improvement plan has a constant thread of refining and strengthening the Christian values as part of a continuing cycle of evaluation and review. The school seeks appropriate support from the diocesan education department to strengthen staff development and training.

Leaders clearly articulate how their management of the school is influenced by their Christian values so that the CIRCLE values are lived by adults and learners alike.

The school's stated mission is 'to provide quality teaching and promote independent learning within a happy and caring Christian atmosphere; where each individual will develop a greater respect for themselves, others and their environment'. The leadership has ensured that this mission is being achieved.

The school has appropriately addressed the three foci for development in the last inspection and is constantly seeking to make further improvement.

SIAMS report November 2016 St Mark's Church of England Primary School, Farnborough. GUI4 6DU