



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Waverley Abbey Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School

Tilford Street
Tilford
Surrey
GU10 2AE

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Guildford

Local authority: Surrey

Dates of inspection: 13th February 2015

Date of last inspection: 11th February 2010

School's unique reference number: 125232

Headteacher: Ms Kate Redman

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

School context

Waverley Abbey is a large junior school with 477 pupils on roll. Most pupils are of White British heritage with very few speaking English as an additional language. The school remains heavily over-subscribed receiving learners from a wide area including four main church infant schools. There is a new headteacher since the last inspection. The school was last inspected by Ofsted in June, 2014 when it was judged to be good.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Waverley Abbey as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The school's distinctively Christian mission and values permeate everything it does.
- Learners' outcomes are good and improving rapidly preparing them for life after Waverley Abbey
- Learners are confident, articulate and caring of each other
- Collective Worship is central and plays a significant part in the whole life of the school
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is very strong

Areas to improve

The school should consider:

- Developing consistent interactive marking in religious education so that it enables learners to improve their work by responding to feedback
- Developing stronger links with the parishes so that learners have an even wider variety of collective worship experiences

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

The school's Christian values of love, care, tolerance and respect underpin all that it does. Learners achieve well and evidence shows that their progress during the four years in the school is improving rapidly. This prepares them well for the next stage in their education. Learners and parents speak highly of the school and how it fosters personal development and values as well as academic excellence. All learners feel included in everything the school does and have the opportunity to excel in a range of cultural and sporting activities within a strong supportive framework of Christian values. Relationships between learners, and learners and adults are excellent. Learners' behaviour is exemplary showing care, concern and respect for others. Learners have a clear understanding of the views and beliefs of others of different faiths in this inclusive school. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a strength of the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is central to the life of this school. It is well planned to enable learners to have a broad experience in different settings. The school plans for whole school, year group and class worship, led by a range of adults both from the school and from the local parishes which encourages learners to participate in different settings. All acts of worship are linked to themes, values and Christian teaching. The teacher responsible for collective worship in the school provides strong leadership and support for both the content and style. The Church's calendar and Anglican traditions are well supported so that learners can speak with confidence about Christian festivals and the life of Jesus Christ. The school's values are an integral part of the worship programme, influencing the whole life of Waverley Abbey. Learners speak enthusiastically about the impact of worship on their lives and how it influences everything they do in school. They understand the value of personal prayer and reflection which makes a significant contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Learners are actively involved in planning and evaluating worship through a small and highly focused Worship Committee which has linked with another local Church school to share best practice and innovation. The governing body monitors the quality of collective worship and reports this to the headteacher for appropriate action. Learners and parents value the links with local churches which the school would like to enhance further.

The school meets the statutory requirements for collective worship.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

There is rigorous planning for religious education which is well-matched to the needs and abilities of the learners. The programmes of study are based on the Guildford Diocesan Guidelines and the Additional Study Units. Scrutiny of plans shows that lessons are innovative and enable pupils to learn using a wide variety of techniques and media. Learners are highly motivated by their lessons and demonstrate enthusiasm. Lessons observed during the inspection were challenging, inspiring and developed learners' understanding. Discussion with learners confirmed that they enjoyed, understood and valued religious education as an integral part of their school curriculum. Standards of attainment, demonstrated by pupil tracking information, work scrutiny and lesson observation, are at least in line with national expectations with a significant number of learners exceeding this. Careful assessment of learners' progress enables further programmes to be well-matched to the next stage in their learning. Learners were confident in expressing their views and thoughts on a range of challenging concepts and ideas, such as comparing Jesus to the sun. Clear similarities were identified between different religions. There are strong links between the school's values and the teaching of religious education which has a central role in the school's curriculum. The teaching is skilfully managed and enables learners of all faiths and none to be included and to benefit.

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 school has an explicit mission which is embodied in all of its culture. Leaders have a clear understanding of the impact of Christian values on learners and confidently articulate them through the school's explicit values. The school has a strong process for self-evaluation which leads to clear strategies for further improvement. The development of religious education and worship is an integral part of the school's priorities demonstrating commitment to further improvement of these already strong areas. The headteacher provides strong leadership and models Christian behaviour in all her interactions. She is strongly supported by all her staff and this is recognised and appreciated by the learners. New staff are well-inducted into the school so that they can further enhance the school's mission and values. Governors are knowledgeable in providing strong challenge and support for the school, demonstrating commitment to ensuring that its Christian character is further developed and embedded.

The school has appropriately addressed the issues in the last inspection.

SIAMS report February 2015, Waverley Abbey Church of England Junior School, Tilford. GUI0 2AE