

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church CE Primary School, New Malden

Lime Grove, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3TW

Current SIAMS inspection grade

Outstanding

Diocese / Methodist District

Southwark

Previous SIAS inspection grade

Outstanding

Local authority

Kingston-upon-Thames

Date/s of inspection

17 and 18 January 2018

Date of last inspection

31 January 2013

Type of school and unique reference number

VA 102585

Headteacher

Tabitha White

Inspector's name and number

Daphne Gibbs 210

School context

Christ Church is a two form entry primary school situated in New Malden. Pupils reflect the rich diversity of the community they serve with approximately 56% of White British heritage and 19% Korean. 29% have English as a second language. 12% of pupils are eligible for pupil premium and 11% have Special Educational Needs. Christ Church occupies a split site with infants on one and the juniors on the other. Around a third of pupils attend Christ Church or other churches in the area. Considerable building works have taken place since the last inspection. The Religious Education (RE) coordinator is new in post.

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

- Leaders consistently, proudly and confidently articulate and promote the school's Christian vision and values and invite the whole school community to work cohesively together.
- A strong inter-linked Christian ethos stimulates care and responsibility and truly encourages learners to 'become the people God made us to be'.
- Creative, varied and inspiring collective worship affirms the school's vision and values and engages all learners and has an impact on all aspects of relationships and school life.
- High quality RE encourages learners to speak of religious ideas and faith in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere and results in a significant number attaining higher than national expectations.

Areas to improve

- Revise the format of RE assessment data to enable direct comparisons to be made with the effective systems used in other subjects and nationally.
- Review the school's admission policy to ensure that it reflects the school's commitment to the local diverse Christian community.

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

The unapologetic, strongly inter-linked Christian ethos of Christ Church school truly encourages pupils to 'become the people God made us to be' as the mission statement declares. 'It is in the air' say the governors. The children know 'everyone is unique and different'. Standards are at or above national expectations. Where there have been issues, careful analysis has led to decisive action being taken. Each pupil is known and greatly valued as an individual and seen as precious in the eyes of God. As a result, all children are supported according to their needs with many intervention strategies in place to encourage personal and academic development and well-being. Rapid progress is being made both in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Attendance figures, currently at 96.8%, are consistently above the national average. The behaviour of learners is of a high standard and caring relationships between all members of the school community reflect the Christian character and values of the school. When talking about their Golden Rules the pupils expressed the view that 'everyone wants to keep Jesus' rules' and 'treat others as you want them to treat you'. They see their school as 'full of kindness, happiness and friendship'. Parents express the view that the school community 'see through the eyes of God and honour each other'. A wide breadth of experience is available to all learners through an exciting, creative curriculum and out of school clubs and activities which consistently promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and prepare them to take a positive role in society. For example, British values are considered in a fun and accessible way. BCeeCees (Bank of Christ Church School), run by the pupils, teaches real and transferrable skills and reflects the school's aims and Christian values. The school has 'pizzazz' as one of the pupils put it. The impact of Christian values spreads out into the community and all are welcomed whether they are Christian, of other faiths or of none. The environment confirms with pride that Christ Church is a Church school. Banners in the junior hall celebrate the local area and its cultural and religious diversity, and the school's strap line is prominently visible throughout. RE and collective worship are very strong components of the Christian character of the school deepening further understanding of and respect for diverse faiths and cultures and enabling pupils to make informed choices based on Christian values.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The outstanding, joyful provision of collective worship engages all pupils and adults and its impact is clearly seen in all aspects of relationships and school life. It 'deeply affirms' Christian values and attitudes. It is alive. The sheer variety of experiences offered to learners from Nursery to Year 6 is inspiring. The incumbent expressed the opinion that you are never too young to learn that 'everything can be brought before God'. Members of the school community are committed to providing exciting opportunities which contribute to the SMSC development of pupils and focus on Christian principles in action. The dramatic and interactive 'Open the Book' assemblies, presented by members of Christ Church and St. John's churches, are a particular favourite. Links between church and school allow for a consistency of approach and a reassuring familiarity. The incumbent matches themes in church and school; a teacher leads music in school and church. Collective worship is delivered with humour and relevance. Music makes the experience even more uplifting. Strong biblical content is proclaimed. It 'helps you understand what it means to be a Christian' say the pupils. Their Trinitarian understanding is maturing. They see God as the Father who is 'always with us and will protect us', Jesus as the Son 'who died for us on the cross and who forgives us our sins', and the Holy Spirit as 'always helping us to be better people'. Every opportunity is taken to celebrate and deepen spirituality and understanding. Anglican tradition is promoted by services held at Christ Church celebrating festivals in the Church's year; a welcome service is held for Reception pupils in which Juniors present them with Bible story books. The school uses the power of prayer to help them achieve their Christian vision. They encourage learners to understand the value of personal prayer and reflection as part of their own spiritual journal. Prayer sheets prompt the use of different types of prayer to say 'thank you', 'please help' and 'sorry' to God. Parents are actively involved. They have a prayer group, organise prayer journeys and have created artistic trees to capture the pupils' individual petitions. Leadership of collective worship is strong, creative and uncompromising – only the best will do. Feedback from governors, pupils and parents, identifying strengths and areas for development, galvanizes the future planning of collective worship.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

RE has a very high profile within the school. It develops an understanding of Christian values and the importance of these to personal and social relationships. Achievement is strong. Comprehensive data shows that standards are well above those for reading, writing and maths in all year groups. The new Diocesan Syllabus for RE was introduced in Autumn 2016 and has been adapted to meet the needs of the pupils at Christ Church school in order to encourage further development. The holistic curriculum is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith through a wide range of learning opportunities, and to develop spiritually, morally and culturally. It also provides opportunities for learners to understand and make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of a range of faiths. The pupils speak of particularly enjoying the study of

different religions 'in a fun way' and of visiting places of worship. In one lesson observed, children of different faiths – Christian, Muslim and Sikh - explained with pride how they prayed. Their peers responded with respectful questions. The majority of teaching is outstanding and never less than consistently good. Challenging discussions take place in a relaxed atmosphere of trust and respect. Subject knowledge is secure. Content is relevant and meaningful. For example, a DVD was shown of the incumbent baptising a pupil from the school as an illustration of how the ceremony is performed. The enthusiastic, new RE coordinator has been in post since September 2017. She only has this one leadership role, say the leadership team, so full focus can be given to maintain its high priority. A smooth transition and in depth induction has resulted in the maintenance and improvement of standards. The school has shared best practice in the use of celebration books, which record the many practical RE activities that children engage in. Focused monitoring of work ensures key priorities are met, and learning walks confirm the quality of reflective areas and interactive displays. Assessment systems are strong and effective but not yet in the same format as systems used in other subjects.

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

Every opportunity is taken by the leadership and management of Christ Church to ensure the whole school community have the opportunity of becoming 'the people God made us to be'. They are seen by the parents as having 'grace and Godly authority'; as being the 'the umbrella and foundation' and as enabling the school community to 'find an identity in Christ'. Vision and ethos are clearly stated on the website and in documentation and have an impact on the positive SMSC development of all learners through in depth monitoring, evaluation and strategic planning, and the delivery of a broad and distinctive curriculum. This results in high standards and achievement. All are invited to take part in the journey. The school reaches out and draws in the community, creatively weaving the strands together. The church and clergy proclaim the exciting biblical message to the pupils. The governors, particularly through the Ethos Group, challenge and hold leaders to account in order to ensure and enhance the distinctive Christian character of the school. Committees have been streamlined resulting in a more productive focus. Parents contribute to the spiritual and prayer life of the school. Pupils, through the 'Let's Lead at Christ Church' initiative, proudly serve their school in many different ways. Also, through them, parents feel the 'gospel and truth are entering all homes'. Christ Church promotes community cohesion by establishing links with local and international communities through a wide range of exciting projects. For example, by sponsoring two children in the Kibera slum in Kenya. However, the school's admission policy is under review to ensure that the large Christian Korean community in New Malden are not at a disadvantage. Leadership and management are seen as 'honouring their staff' and playing to their strengths. The governors are currently appointing a governor as a staff champion. Induction is detailed and the school has effectively addressed the focus for development in the last inspection. The head teacher recently produced real life case studies and explored with staff how they might promote the school's Christian vision when dealing with the different scenarios. Careful succession planning has been considered with senior management posts being effectively restructured, the assistant head being promoted to deputy head and a new RE coordinator appointed. This, combined with an exciting, creative approach to improvement, and the commitment to high standards and providing the very best for all learners, means Christ Church has the capacity to improve, develop and grow even more as a unique and distinctively Christian church school.

SIAMS report January 2018 Christ Church CE Primary School, Lime Grove, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3TW