



Petworth CE Primary School

Diocese of Chichester

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Inspection Report



Date of inspection: 11 July 2012

Name of inspector: Olivia Izzard

NS inspector's number: 389

School address: South Grove
Petworth
West Sussex
GU28 0EE

Unique reference number: 125990

Status: Voluntary Controlled

Number on roll: 133

Age range of pupils: 4-11

LA: West Sussex

Name of chair of governors: Sara Bennie

Name of headteacher: Gillian Standing

Date of previous inspection: June 2008

Description of the school

Petworth CE Primary School is a small primary school in the town of Petworth, located close to the South Downs. Most of the pupils are drawn from the small town of Petworth or the immediate area. Since the last inspection the current headteacher has been appointed and further provision for nursery and Year 6 children has been made on the new site. The school has recently been awarded the Artsmark Gold Award.

Summary judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Petworth CE Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

True to its mission statement, Petworth CE Primary School is 'an inclusive school community providing excellent primary education within a caring environment'. Through effective leadership, the current headteacher with the governing body, the committed staff, supportive parents and a very involved local church community have developed an outstanding Christian ethos.

Grade: 1

Established strengths

- The outstanding Christian ethos in which all stakeholders of the school are highly valued.
- The effective use of the pupils' role in leading and evaluating worship, thus maximising its impact.
- The thoughtful and effective use of the school environment to enhance spiritual development.
- The excellent liaison between the school and local church community which enhances the school's Christian character.

Focus for development

- Provide additional opportunities for staff reflection and spiritual growth.
- Consider ways of displaying information about the world wide church.

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship	Yes
--	------------

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

The school applies distinctive Christian values extremely well to enrich the learning of all pupils. The school's strong Christian ethos is apparent in all relationships between pupils and staff with adults acting as excellent role models. The Christian faith is central to the life of the school and is constantly reinforced through the mission statement, school policies and schemes of work.

Worship plays a significant role in making Christian values an integral part of everyday life. Christian values are enhanced by the use of appropriate resources including SEAL materials and the input of Christian visitors to the school, including the local vicar, the minister from the United Reformed Church and the 'Splash Team', a drama group from The Community Church in Petworth.

The Christian ethos is further promoted through the relevant and appropriate teaching and learning of RE (Religious Education). Opportunities include class discussion, visits to local churches, the input of visitors including local groups and the celebration of Christian festivals.

The school uses its Christian character well to encourage and challenge the SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development of its pupils. Spiritual development is effectively enhanced by the provision of excellent learning environments, both inside and outside the building. Displays within the building, including reflection areas, and structures such as 'The Eco-Garden' outside encourage reflection effectively.

Opportunities for social and moral development are outstanding. The children are actively encouraged to participate in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and to raise funding for others including the elderly, Worthing Churches Projects and several international appeals. They are encouraged to be active members of The School Council and to take responsibility for themselves and each other.

Opportunities for cultural development are excellent. Good resources and effective links with children in the Nagyberég Orphanage, Ukraine and the Christ Church Streatham C of E Primary School provide exciting and meaningful experiences for all the children. The school is now considering ways of displaying information about the world wide church to greater effect.

Grade:1

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is outstanding.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. Participants gain significant spiritual development through participation in worship. One pupil described it as 'my time to talk to God' while another said 'it makes me feel more calm and friendly'. Acts of worship are meticulously planned, recorded and evaluated. A particular innovation since the last inspection has been the setting up of the pupils' Worship Committee, members of whom regularly have meetings, write prayers, lead worship and evaluate their effectiveness. In discussion members of the Worship Committee expressed their appreciation for being able to give feedback which they feel is listened to and acted upon 'if it is not too silly'.

Attitudes to worship are extremely positive with staff and pupils demonstrating high levels of participation in worship. The children enter respectfully, sing tunefully, listen attentively and participate appropriately. They particularly enjoy going to the local church for celebrations and the major Christian festivals.

Pupils talk knowledgeably about the Christian Year, can recite The Lords Prayer, respond to greetings and enjoy hymn singing.

Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian as the meticulous planning, based on themes relating to Christian values, demonstrates. The School Eucharist has recently been introduced and is enthusiastically described by pupils one of whom commented, 'It helps me feel closer to Jesus'. While another commented, 'Whatever your belief it's a time to think'.

Grade: 1

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

The Christian vision for the school is clearly evident in all public documentation and articulated well by the headteacher, governors, staff and children alike.

The school's leaders have highly effective monitoring and evaluation processes in place and these processes are firmly embedded in the school improvement plan. Detailed guidance is given to school leaders in undertaking the monitoring and evaluation.

Good quality CPD (Continued Professional Development) ensures that staff and governors play a vital role in the ongoing development of the school. The headteacher, deputy headteacher and foundation governors have attended diocesan-based training on a regular basis. The leadership and management has now identified a need to extend further CPD for staff by providing opportunities for their spiritual development through a prayer group, reflection and greater use of prayer.

The school is highly inclusive and virtually all parents, pupils and other stakeholders speak positively of the way in which the school seeks and values their views. An open door policy ensures all members of the community feel welcome. Communication with parents is excellent. There is a very active PPSA (Petworth Primary School Association) and parents play an active role within the school and beyond. Pupils are treated with considerable care, their views on aspects of the school being highly valued. A particular strength of the school is the excellent liaison with the local church community of St Mary's and there are also high levels of interaction with other faith groups within the community including the United Reformed Church.

All stakeholders at Petworth CE Primary School are justifiably proud of their school and, in particular, its Christian character. One child commented, ' Being in this church school makes you kinder'.

Grade:1