

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Horsell Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Meadway Drive,  
Horsell  
Woking.  
GU21 4TA

**Diocese: Guildford**

Local authority: Surrey

Dates of inspection: 15 October 2007

Date of last inspection: March 2003

School's unique reference number: 125201

Headteacher: Mrs Yvonne Lawrence

Inspector's name and number: The Revd A Fiddian-Green (NSI 383)

#### **Description of the school**

Horsell Church of England Aided junior school has 360 pupils, which is above average for a junior school. It is situated near Woking, Surrey, and draws its intake from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds. It has an average number of children who have English as an additional language. The school has recently had a very successful OFSTED inspection. The inclusion of all pupils in all aspects of the life and work of the school is a very high priority.

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

Horsell Church of England Aided junior school is outstanding. It is fully committed to the care and development of every child, giving a strongly positive dimension to the national initiative "Every Child Matters." Added to that is its distinctively Christian character which underpins all it does.

#### **Established strengths**

- There is full commitment to promoting Christian values and ideals, giving an excellent ethos of care.
- Worship is exceptionally well planned and carried out.
- Links to the local church and parish are strong.
- Religious education is one of the school's outstanding strengths.
- Leadership and management are outstanding.

#### **Focus for development**

There are no specific areas for development.

**Through its distinctive Christian character, the school makes outstanding provision in meeting the needs of all learners.**

The school is outstanding in meeting the needs of all its learners through its distinctively Christian nature. Explicit Christian values and character clearly underpin all that the school does. There is an ethos of care and happy learning, and the school fully reflects its motto, "Everyone matters – everyone learns." All the pupils spoken to were very confident that they could turn to any number of adults if need arose. A key principle for the school is the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, and every opportunity is taken to extend pupils' experience and understanding in these areas. For example, work in religious education includes an appreciation of the natural world, and there was a flower festival to celebrate the wonder and colours of flowers. Worship and religious education make major contributions to pupils' spiritual development. Relationships within the school are very good and staff provide excellent role models for pupils. Older pupils are given opportunities to help others by mentoring and acting as Buddies. Expectations for pupils' good behaviour are high and as a result the school has a happy and co-operative atmosphere. The strong links to the parish church also enhance the Christian focus very well, especially at festivals such as Christmas and Easter. These are fully supported by governors and parents.

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

Worship is outstanding and permeates all that the school does. The introduction of carefully planned weekly themes has been instrumental in enabling high quality acts of worship. Whilst the themes are fully backed up by Biblical stories and references, other world religions are acknowledged and included. For example, there has been much work on Yom Kippur in Judaism, leading to references in the worship theme for the week. Pupils really enjoy their worship times and behave exceptionally well. The act of worship seen during the inspection was outstanding, with the whole school participating fully, and singing and doing the actions with great enthusiasm. Pupils have a share in choosing worship songs, and they have discussed the school's worship with teachers. As a result, changes were made in line with pupils' observations, such as a larger team of teachers to lead, and more lively songs. The vicar comes in to school regularly to lead worship, and he is well known by the children. They say the Lord's Prayer and have times for stillness and quiet. The focus for these times is the cross and candle, always set up in the hall. There is an annual school eucharist and every effort is made to include all pupils and thought given to how they will participate fully.

The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship.

**The effectiveness of religious education is outstanding.**

Religious education is outstanding and is clearly one of the core subjects of the school. The planning of the curriculum is excellent and there is an outstanding portfolio of evidence, including a large number of photographs to bear this out. In Year 6 pupils were seen engaged in an extended time, focusing on Sukkot, making use of Jewish artefacts and making an apple strudel. Year 4 were making a 'Christian cake' which involved comparing the ingredients to the fruits of the Spirit. This was a very good lesson, actively involving all pupils and enabling them to link their work to everyday life. The portfolio of pupils' work reflects the broad and balanced curriculum offered to pupils in this subject; they study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam

Assessment systems are outstanding and there are written plans to extend this even further by introducing pupil-devised targets using national criteria. Systems for self-evaluation and monitoring of the subject are very good, and religious education is included in the overall school development plan. It is clearly a strength of the school

The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education.

**The leadership and management of the school, as a church school, are outstanding.**

Leadership and management are outstanding. The headteacher sets a very high standard and has gathered together a strong and cohesive staff. Her strategic vision clearly inspires staff and pupils alike in all that the school does, and all is firmly based upon Christian principles. As a governor said, "She leads from the front." Religious education also has outstanding leadership and management. The RE co-ordinator's file leaves nothing to chance, and demonstrates a strong commitment to making the subject one of the most important areas of the school.

The headteacher and staff have established development plans that show a high level of commitment and inspiration for taking the school forward.

The governors, acting as critical friends, involve themselves very well in the life and work of the school. The documents of the school clearly express its Christian nature and purpose. Parents are consulted frequently and fully about the education their children receive. They are very appreciative and fully support all that the school does.

The Vicar of St. Mary's Church is a frequent visitor to the school and is involved in its governance as well as leading worship. He maintains strong links between church and school.

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