

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Send Church of England Foundation First School**

Send Barns Lane

Send, Woking

GU23 7BS

**Diocese: Guildford**

Local authority: Surrey

Dates of inspection: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Date of last inspection: June 2001

School's unique reference number: 125285

Headteacher: Mrs S Springall

Inspector's name and number: Janet Wiggins 141

### **School context**

Send Infant is situated on the outskirts of Woking in the village of Send. Pupils enter school from the village, other local villages and Woking. Pupil attainment on entry varies considerably from year to year. Most pupils are of White British heritage and although from a variety of backgrounds are from relatively advantaged homes.

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

The school has a strong and inclusive Christian ethos. Christian values and teaching are clearly demonstrated and communicated in all aspects of school life.

### **Established strengths**

- Outstanding provision to meet the needs of individual pupils
- The strong and productive relationship with the church and local community
- The clear Christian vision of the headteacher, governors and staff

### **Focus for development**

- Work with the local schools Learning Network to extend the creative curriculum through social and emotional education
- Provide further Extended Day activities

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

The school's caring, inclusive Christian ethos is reflected in the excellent provision for all pupils. Pupils are valued and their individual needs recognised and supported. Their achievements are celebrated. Pupils are happy and enjoy school. They speak with enthusiasm about their headteacher, teachers and their school. Pupils enjoy working and playing together. Initiatives such as the Friendship Group, Buddies, and Circle Time help pupils develop a positive self-image and improve social interaction. Pupils are polite, confident and well-behaved. Helping to set rules and, for some, membership of the School Council, enables them to take responsibility and represent their peers. Pupils have a growing knowledge of environmental and health issues through the Recycling and Healthy Schools projects. The inspiring school environment encourages social interaction and spiritual growth. Quiet areas, which provide space for reflection and activities such as gardening, hatching eggs and butterflies, illustrate the wonder of God's world. Strong church links, good religious education and worship support pupils' spiritual growth. The Priest in Charge is a popular visitor to lead worship and children visit the parish church. A range of experiences feature in focus weeks such as "Around the World Week". These contribute to the pupils' understanding of other faiths and cultures. The strong Parent Partnership ensures that school and home work closely together. Parents appreciate the school's open and friendly Christian ethos. Activities and after school clubs contribute to the pupils' social development. The school is planning to explore ways of extending provision. Through a variety of charitable and

community events the pupils show awareness, care and concern for others.

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

Worship plays a central role in the life of the school and has a good impact on pupils' spiritual and moral development. Strong support is received from the local clergy and visitors. Worship has a clear Christian focus and major Christian festivals are celebrated both in school and in the parish church. This helps pupils' understanding of Anglican practice and tradition. Parents appreciate the welcome they receive at these services. Worship is well planned and co-ordinated. It is effectively supported by religious education and the wider curriculum as appropriate, thus providing good opportunities for spiritual, cultural and moral development. Clear links are made between Bible stories, their teaching and relevance to life today. Knowledge and understanding of other faiths and cultures is also enhanced by special times to celebrate festivals around the world. Pupils are familiar with the Lords Prayer, write their own prayers and recognise the importance of prayer in time of crisis and also for giving thanks to God. Pupils enjoy praying together to thank God for newborn siblings. Opportunities are given for silent reflection as a means of spiritual growth. Pupils are actively involved in worship and particularly enjoy planning and delivering their own class assemblies. Although not always to accompaniment, children sing well and with enthusiasm. They value the regular celebration of achievement assemblies and also times when their individual birthdays are celebrated by all.

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

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

The headteacher has a very clear vision of how to develop and promote the strong Christian ethos of the school. She is well supported by an able and committed team of governors and staff. Governors are actively involved in school life with the foundation governors consistently monitoring and evaluating the school's Christian status and practice. The full involvement of governors, staff and parents ensures that self-evaluation is both valid and developmental. All decisions taken reflect and promote the school's Christian foundation and ethos. Church and community links are strong. The Priest in Charge contributes to the school's spiritual life and is a popular leader of worship. The Family Learning Programme and Parent Partnership are appreciated by parents. School and home actively work together in the pupils' interest. The thriving PTA supports the school through a variety of social and fund-raising activities. Good working relationships with feeder schools ensure that transfer procedures are efficient and productive. Working with the local schools' Learning Network provides sound professional development for staff. There is scope for further work in developing the creative curriculum. Governors and staff make good use of the Diocesan Education Centre for resources and training. Parents are actively involved in their children's education. They appreciate the welcoming Christian ethos, care and understanding shown to each individual. They state that this has resulted in a growth of their children's self-confidence and an enthusiasm for learning. Through dedicated liaison meetings, the headteacher and Governing Body are taking clear measures to ensure that the hand over of the leadership of the school at the end of the academic year to a new headteacher is a smooth and effective transition.

Send Church of England Foundation First School, Send Barns Lane, Send, Woking GU23 7BS July 2007