



St Peter's CE Primary School, Chailey

Diocese of Chichester

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Inspection Report



Date of inspection:	21 September 2009
Name of inspector:	Robina Richter
NS inspector's number:	477
School address:	East Grinstead Road North Chailey East Sussex BN8 4DB
Unique reference number:	114495
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Number on roll:	119
Age range of pupils:	4-11
LA:	East Sussex
Name of chair of governors:	Kristine Bowen
Name of headteacher:	Gillian Morrow
Date of previous inspection:	November 2006

The inspection of denominational education and collective worship in the school was carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Description of the school

St Peter's School is a village school. Pupils are drawn from a wide rural area. Recently the school has expanded from 4 to 5 classes. The original Victorian school building has been extended and modernised. There are plans for new classrooms later this year. Pupils are drawn from a range of socio-economic groups with 48% who have Special Educational Needs. 18% of pupils are recognised as gifted and talented.

The school has the Healthy Schools Award, Artsmark, Activemark and Nacemark.

Summary judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Peter's CE Primary School, Chailey as a Church of England school are good.

The relationships at St Peter's School are good and founded on Christian values as set out in its vision and aims. All stakeholders contribute to regular self-evaluation that informs development planning. The pupil voice is particularly strong, enhancing the quality of communication and well being of the pupils. There is a good worship policy but the school needs to establish formal systems of planning, recording and evaluating Collective Worship. Pupils' understanding of the distinctive Christian and Anglican characteristics is limited.

Grade: 2

Established strengths

- The quality and strength of the 'pupil voice' which contributes to the development and effectiveness of the school
- The quality of relationships in the school
- The commitment and enthusiasm of staff and governors

Focus for development

- Continue to develop the pupils' understanding and communication of the Christian and Anglican tradition and practice
- Develop formal systems for evaluating worship

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship	Yes
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The school, through its distinctive Christian character is good at meeting the needs of all its learners.

The Christian values of the school are clearly set out in the school's vision and aims: 'Our school life is underpinned by the Christian values of love (unconditional care and respect), hope (having high but not unreasonable expectations) and forgiveness (having a 'fresh start' each day).' There is a school prayer which is used regularly and displayed in each classroom. There are two crosses on display and a large mosaic depicting the cockerel and bear referring to the school's namesake St Peter. Stakeholders relate well to others, work co-operatively and there is a family atmosphere. However, this is not always directly related to the Christian character of the school. Conflict and complaints are normally resolved speedily and compassionately in a spirit of reconciliation. This is particularly evident in the high quality and respect for the pupil voice seen through conferencing, anti-bullying and peer mediation, the school council, and play leaders. Pupils who have transferred from other schools commented on the lack of bullying at St Peter's and how safe the playground feels. The pupils know and like the 'golden rules'. The staff play a leading part in supporting and safeguarding pupils in the school community and beyond. There is a governor appointed to promote community cohesion.

The Christian character of the school supports spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well. The curriculum for global and community citizenship is good. Years 5 and 6 children celebrated 'Black History' month to ensure pupils' good awareness of black British and American culture. The school has regular visits from their link school, Faraba Lower Basic Girl-friendly School in Gambia. RE is recognised by staff and governors as being of importance and promotes the Christian character of the school. The school has extended its resources for multi-faith education and developed additional multi-cultural elements of learning since the last inspection.

Grade: 2

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

There have been two changes of leadership for worship at the school since the last inspection. A focus for development identified in the previous inspection 'to implement formal evaluation for acts of collective worship' remains to be addressed. The worship policy is good. The planning file and records of worship are limited to the overall themes for Collective Worship. Pupils are attentive and engaged in worship. Mainly, they comment positively about the school worship, particularly enjoying those led weekly by Father Richard, the parish priest. Pupils occasionally take an active part in worship. Worship meets the needs of the pupils at critical times in their own lives and the life of the school. A pupil said 'When we have problems in school the headteacher talks about them at assembly and we find ways to make it better.'

Pupils experience Anglican tradition and practice. The school attends St Peter's Church for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers' service. This last service is valued as a rite of passage by the pupils now in Year 6. However, the pupils seem to have a limited understanding of key aspects of worship, set prayers, awareness of the diocese and the wider church.

Grade: 3

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

The Christian foundation of the school is clearly set out in the school's vision and aims. School leaders and governors ensure that all stakeholders contribute to regular self-evaluation that informs development planning. Issues identified by stakeholders are largely addressed. Relationships in the school are good. The staff and governors are committed and enthusiastic. Recently a foundation governor provided the governors with a review of the worship he saw and the school's distinctive Christian character to inform the self-evaluation process.

Parents and members of the local community speak highly of the school and the values promoted by the school, especially the care and welfare of their children. Most are aware of the Christian character of the school. They are invited to attend celebrations at the church or school. There are good links with the village playgroup which is on the school site. The school has worked hard to continue and establish links with its partners in the local churches. The appointment of a governor for community cohesion will enable this to develop further. The school makes monthly contributions to the parish magazine. Through succession planning the school has a clear understanding of its future development as a church school community. The staff benefits from personal, spiritual and professional development; several previous members of staff have moved to leadership positions at church schools.

Grade: 2