

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### St. Peter's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

The Durlocks

Folkestone

Kent

CT19 6AL

**Diocese: Canterbury**

Local authority: Kent

Dates of inspection: 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007

School's unique reference number: 118676

Headteacher: Miss Ann Blunt

Inspector's name and number: Revd. Stephen Bould

#### School context

St. Peter's Church of England (Controlled) Primary School is a smaller than average school with 101 pupils, located close to Folkestone harbour. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties is much higher than in most primary schools and the percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals is above average. A recent OfSTED inspection judged the school to be good with some outstanding features.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Peter's as a Church of England school are good

St Peter's Church of England (Controlled) Primary School is a good Church school.

#### Established strengths

- The pastoral care that is offered to pupils and their families is of a very high quality and contributes to the caring and supportive ethos of the school.
- There is a strong Anglican identity which is developed through a varied programme of collective worship and church services.
- There is a clear emphasis on Christian values throughout the school, including its documentation and policies.

#### Focus for development

- To explain and apply the school's mission statement more explicitly so that pupils understand how it impacts on their learning, attitudes and behaviour.
- To further develop the evaluation of collective worship, including the opportunity for pupils to give their feedback.
- To involve other staff and the foundation governors more in the continuing process of self-evaluation of the school as a Church school.

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

Parents and pupils spoke very positively about the supportive family atmosphere and values of the school as a Church of England school. There is a full-time Family Liaison Officer and a full-time Inclusion Manager who contribute significantly to the very high quality care that is offered to pupils and their families. The school runs excellent breakfast and after-school clubs which are greatly valued by the pupils who attend. The close proximity of the adjoining church building gives a clear indication of the religious character of the school, and this is reinforced by the use of Christian symbols and good quality displays in all the classrooms. A greater understanding of the wider work of the Church could be encouraged by the use of suitable displays and information within the school buildings. The school's mission statement that "each individual is valued as a child of God and made in his image to reflect his love, strength and creativity" has a high profile throughout the school building and in all the

school's documentation. The value of this mission statement would be enhanced by making explicit links with pupils' lives, enabling them to understand the statement more easily and then see the way in which it applies to the day to day life of the school.

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

Pupils on the school council spoke warmly of their enjoyment of collective worship and the opportunities to pray, read and act. Their engagement with worship is such that pupils are able to recall a good variety of Bible stories. There is a good diversity in the provision of collective worship, involving the headteacher, the incumbent, and a local non-Anglican church group. Collective worship takes place in the church and also in a separate school hall. An increased sense of expectation whilst gathering for worship in the hall might be encouraged by the playing of music appropriate to worship. Class worship makes creative use of stories, interactive whiteboards and music. Children are able to explain the significance of lighting a candle to remind them that Jesus is the light of the world and present in their worship. Encouraging the evaluation of worship, including the opportunity for feedback from pupils, would ensure that worship in school and church is always accessible to the children. The school's Anglican identity is maintained with Christian festivals and seasons all being celebrated. The Lord's Prayer, a school prayer and some traditional Anglican responses are also known by all pupils, and prayers are said before lunch and at the end of each day. Several pupils in years 5 and 6 are prepared for confirmation each year by the incumbent, and they are then able to receive communion at services in church. The impact of this could be enhanced by planning the confirmation service so that the whole school can be a part of it.

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

The headteacher gives a clear lead regarding the values of the school as a Church school and this is reflected in the school prospectus as well as the RE and collective worship policies. RE is led by an enthusiastic co-ordinator who has a very good understanding of the subject and of the importance of encouraging pupils to be learning from religion as well as learning about it. The headteacher has made good use of the Diocesan self-evaluation toolkit. More involvement of other staff and the foundation governors in this process will ensure that self-evaluation continues to have an effective impact on the life of the school. The need for regular reports to the PCC from the foundation governors has been recognised, and this will ensure that the school continues to be an important part of the life and mission of the Church. The School Council makes an effective contribution to the life of the school and pupils have enjoyed being given responsibility for spending a small budget on playground equipment. Involving them in the evaluation of all aspects of the school's worship would be beneficial and further increase their sense of having opinions that are valued.