

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School,

Tandridge Lane

Tandridge

Oxted Surrey

RH8 9NN

Diocese of Southwark

School's Unique reference number: 125197

Dates of inspection: 4/5 March 2008

Dates of last inspection: March 2002

Name of Headteacher: R Dalziel

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number : P Smith-Orr. 82

School Context

St Peter's is a one form entry infant school in the village of Tandridge in Surrey. There are 87 on role. The learners come from several villages in the area and are mainly from church going families. There is one Muslim family at the school. There are very strong links with the local community and the village church and the church ethos of the school is valued and supported by the wider community.

Summary Judgement

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

St Peter's Infant school is an outstanding church school with a strong Christian ethos while promoting respect for other faiths and cultures. The strong leadership of the head teacher supported by the staff and governors ensures that the Christian vision of the school underpins everything that happens in the life of the school and that the needs of all learners are met.

Established Strengths

- the Christian vision of the head teacher and the inspirational way the school is led and managed
- the strong relationships between the learners, staff, parents and governors and very close links with the local church
- the strong Christian ethos promoted throughout the school, shown in behaviour and in all the displays
- collective worship which is central to the school day and is both inspirational and memorable

Focus for Development

- to explore ways of further involving other faith groups and denominations in the life of the school
- work on challenging the most able children in Religious Education lessons

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

St Peter's school is serious about their collective worship time and all members of the learning community take part and value this part of the school day. The act of collective worship is led by different members of staff and the head teacher as well as the local minister and ministers from other denominations and from churches in the surrounding area. Staff members have indicated that leading the worship gives them spiritual growth and inspiration. The learners enjoy this time of day and in the worships observed were calm and reflective and enthusiastically joined in singing together. There is a weekly theme which is developed through the week. The theme during

inspection was 'Friends' and on one day a little play by some Year 2 learners about Jesus calling the disciples was beautifully acted out, particularly the reconciliation between the disciples and Matthew the tax collector. On the second day, all learners enjoyed giving ideas to make a poster indicating the qualities of a good friend. Learners from the school council spoke of their enjoyment of collective worship and could remember previous themes. Learners prepare the hall for worship, laying out an altar with a cloth, a cross, candles and the theme for the week, these are then kept in the prayer corner until next time. Governors attend worship on a regular basis and parents are invited to attend on special occasions. Several parents mentioned how important this was to them. The learners also attend the local church regularly and a joint patronal service is planned for this summer. At Christmas the learners go to church and have a quiet time looking at the crib and learn about the true meaning of Christmas for Christians. These well planned occasions lead to a good understanding of Anglican practice appropriate to the age of the learners.

The religious education is outstanding

RE is seen as important and as a thread that runs throughout the school day not just during lessons; it is taught as a discrete subject and also in a cross curricular way. Learners achieve standards in line and above those expected for their age. A variety of strategies are used to enable learners to develop their knowledge and to apply their learning about religion to their every day lives. RE lessons seen were all on the subject of Easter, each year group looking at different aspects of the symbols of Easter, the idea of new life and God's wonderful creation. The reception class went on a short walk looking for signs of new life and God's creation and then took part in various activities linked with the art and science curriculum. In Year 1 and Year 2 the learners were articulate and used correct terminology to talk about the symbols of Easter and the saddest and happiest times we encounter. The link with the church and community was clear in Year 2 as they were using their knowledge of the symbols of Easter to make a stole for the minister to wear during the school Easter service. The head teacher is the co-ordinator of the subject and has an enthusiasm and knowledge which she shares with the staff. She has made use of the diocesan advisor and the training offered to church school co-ordinators. High achievement is promoted through effective assessment through the 'I can' statements brought out by the diocese. Assessment is based on observation, work sampling and learners' responses and these assessments are actually used to inform the teachers planning. As a result lessons are carefully planned using both attainment targets, learning about and learning from religion, and the learners are made aware of the learning objectives and expected outcomes. RE clearly contributes to the spiritual and moral development of all the learners as shown by the thoughtful and loving letters written to the local vicar who is currently ill. Visitors are invited to talk in RE lessons - a Muslim parent has been in to talk about prayer. The subject leader is currently looking at incorporating some further units on Islam which currently does not have the same level of teaching as Judaism and Christianity. She is also looking at ways in which to further challenge the most able learners through questioning techniques. There is a good range of resources and interactive white boards are used to good effect, for instance to look at the different colours of the church throughout the year in Year 2 prior to making the stole. Displays in each class show the appreciation given to learners work and the importance of the Christian ethos of the school. Parents spoke about the way their children talked about religious issues at home and one parent said she was in no doubt that her children were receiving a good Christian start to life.

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

The strong leadership of the head teacher supported by the staff and governors ensures that the Christian vision of the school underpins everything that happens in the life of the school. There is also a very strong relationship with the local church which impacts on the life of the school. Induction of staff and new governors ensures that the school's Christian character and mission are clearly understood. New parents also have the relationship with the church explained to them at their first visit. Parents have recently responded very positively to a questionnaire about the Christian character of the school. One parent spoke about the strong triangle of the community, the church and the school. The church council are actively involved in the life of the school and receive a report at each meeting. The head teacher has contacted other local church ministers and ministers of other denominations and invited them to join in worship. The governors have a Christian ethos committee and have taken advantage of training from the diocese and also had a strong input into the writing of the school self evaluation document. They have assessed evidence accurately and thoroughly and their judgements are confirmed by this inspection. Governors' meetings begin with a prayer and regularly discuss the links with the church and the school. The

school development plan has the Christian ethos of the school in a central place and the governors have a rota for visiting the school and for attending collective worship. The links with the community are very strong, there is a regular event called Tandridge Teatime where members of the community and the school, including learners who have moved on, meet together. At Christmas the learners went round the village delivering cards to members of the community. The school has had a series of new buildings and is raising money for a further stage, they recently held a ball and raised several thousand pounds from the community who clearly hold the school in high regard. The school joins with other local church schools once a year to celebrate their Christian Foundation. Learners in Year 2 were to take part in the Womens World of Prayer day event in the church during the week of inspection. During the inspection many parents came to speak about the excellent start this school gives to their children and the Christian values that their children have been taught and display.

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