

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Andover Church of England Primary School

5-7 East St, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 1EP

Current SIAMS inspection grade

Good

Diocese

Winchester

Previous SIAMS inspection grade

Good

Local authority

Hampshire

Date of inspection

4 October 2017

Date of last inspection

25 September 2012

Type of school and unique reference number

Primary 116269

Headteacher

Melanie Beardsley

Inspector's name and number

Richard Blackmore 857

School context

Andover Church of England Primary School is located near the town centre with 209 pupils on role. The percentage of pupils with special educational needs is broadly average, as is the percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals. The catchment is a wide with some children travelling some distance to attend the school. Pupils are from a mix of socio-economic backgrounds. Pupils are taught in seven single aged classes. There is also a mixed aged 'satellite' class from a special needs school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Andover Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are good

- Christian values permeate the school. They are effectively promoted and celebrated in a wide variety of practical ways.
- There is an clear and distinctive Christian ethos which is welcoming and nurturing.
- Strong relationships permeate within the school and the local Christian community.
- Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good.
- Children enjoy learning and the environment enables them to be confident, flourish and achieve well.
- Behaviour and relationships are good.

Areas to improve

- Deepen pupils' understanding of how symbols represent different aspects of the Christian faith. For example, the holy spirit illustrated through the dove.
- Improve the way pupils are involved in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that the monitoring of religious education is more robust and focuses on learning in greater depth.

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

The school provides a strong and supportive Christian environment which contributes significantly to the well-being and personal and academic growth of the pupils. Staff are highly motivated and they work well together to support each other to ensure positive outcomes for pupils. They work hard to develop children's self-confidence and to inspire and motivate pupils. Pupils get on well together and feel part of a cohesive Christian family, within the school and further afield. This includes local community groups and St Mary's Church. Strong emphasis is placed on moral development clearly based on Christian values. The school's Christian values are clear, shared and understood by all involved in the life of the school and pupils can talk about how the values impact on their words and actions. Bible stories and biblical principles are highlighted regularly in collective worship and Religious Education (RE) to challenge pupils and to reinforce Christian values. Feedback from pupils and parents is overwhelmingly positive. Pupils show great respect for others and this is supported by the school in worship, religious education and the good relationships between pupils and teachers. The school environment makes an effective contribution to the spiritual development of pupils. However, the use and display of symbols around school sometimes lack consistency in terms of helping pupils understand the Christian faith in even greater depth. RE, collective worship and other areas of the curriculum develop children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness well. As a result, pupils respect faiths, traditions and cultures other than Christianity, and know in detail of the difference, similarity and diversity of life both locally and globally. The curriculum also serves to further develop the Christian character of the school. For example, in Year 3's 'Life in the Freezer', pupils have an opportunity to appreciate the beauty and diversity of God's creation.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship has a high profile in the life and daily routine of the school. Much value is placed on it by all members of the school community. This is because it is relevant and strongly reinforces the school's values of 'Love, Hope and Forgiveness.' Collective worship offers practical illustrations for pupils on the school's ambitious expectations of how they can contribute to school life and the school community. The daily act of worship enhances the pupils' knowledge and understanding of key aspects of the Christian faith including their awareness of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Collective worship is led in an enthusiastic and participatory way. Pupils' attitudes are positive to worship, shown by their clear enjoyment and involvement. For example, pupils were very keen to play an active part in reading out questions for the whole school to consider, discuss and reflect upon. However, they have limited opportunities to plan and lead school worship which school leaders are aware of and currently addressing. They also enjoy the range of worship songs and hymns used. There are times set aside for quiet personal reflection and prayer, which has a positive impact on pupils' well developed spiritual and moral development. Children are frequently engaged in reading and writing prayers, and do so with confidence. Prayer is considered an important aspect of their spiritual growth. For example, children learn and say the Lord's Prayer with confidence, sincerity and knowledge, say grace before lunch and a prayer before they finish school. Links with the parish church are good in supporting and developing collective worship. The vicar and a range of church representatives have a very positive impact on collective worship and the life of the school. This helps to further shape their understanding of the Holy Trinity and the teaching of Jesus.

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

The Headteacher and staff have ensured that the school's Christian values permeate the life of the school. Senior leaders set a clear direction for the school from a clear and present Christian perspective. The ethos is calm, supportive and purposeful. The strong Christian vision for the school of 'Striving for excellence in a happy, secure and Christian environment' is evident from the way in which staff really know the pupils. This aspiration is well supported and endorsed by the senior leadership team and the governing body. This means that the school knows its pupils and their families well, ensuring the well-being of the wider school community. Plans for sharing and developing the school's Christian ethos are incorporated well in the school development plan and are threaded through policies, for example in the teaching and learning policy. Monitoring of the effectiveness of the school as a church school is evident but less developed is the evaluation of the school's RE curriculum and its wider impact on pupils. The headteacher and governors have strongly supported the development of staff through a well organised programme of professional development. This includes the development of senior staff as church school leaders of the future. Partnerships with the local community, parents and the church, help to enrich learners' experience. Links with the local church community are strong and mutually beneficial and bring a greater understanding of Anglican life and liturgy for pupils. Parents are warmly welcomed in the school and encouraged to be involved in school life and their children's learning. Parents spoken to during the inspection agree that the school is highly supportive and engages with parents well. Pupils' views are taken seriously and they have a leading role in the decision-making process of the school through their active involvement in the School Council. There are good links with the diocese.

For example, staff training through the Diocesan Education department on RE has resulted in further impetus to enhancing the school's Christian ethos. This support has also ensured that the arrangements for religious education and collective worship meet statutory requirements.

SIAMS report October 2017, Andover Church of England Primary School, Andover, SPI0 IEP