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## Diocese of Chichester

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## Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

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## Inspection Report

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Name of school: Clapham and Patching CE Primary School

Address: Clapham  
Worthing  
West Sussex  
BN13 3UU

Name of inspector: Revd Derek Bastide

NS inspector's number: 418

Date of inspection: 26 September 2007

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

## Information about the school

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Type of school:	Primary
Unique reference number:	125977
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Number on roll:	34
Age range of pupils:	4-11
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
LEA:	West Sussex
Name of chair of governors:	Deborah Urquhart
Name of headteacher:	Andy Mead (Substantive Head) David Bertwistle (Acting Head)
Date of previous inspection:	November 2002

### Description of the school

Clapham and Patching CE School is situated in the village of Clapham. Of its 34 pupils only one quarter live within the catchment area. The pupils are taught in two classes. 61% of pupils have special educational needs. The substantive headteacher has been on sick leave for almost one year and the current acting head took over only two weeks before the inspection. Historically there have been close links with the two churches in the parish but in the recent past these links have been less strong. There are, in fact, no foundation governors on the governing body at present. However the acting head is already working hard with the new parish priest to develop a closer relationship again.

### Key for inspection grades

<b>1</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>

### **Summary judgement**

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Clapham and Patching School as a Church of England school are satisfactory. Strongly committed to the worth of all its diverse pupils as individuals it is passionate about its inclusive approaches to teaching. It has a very strong family atmosphere and has largely eliminated all bad behaviour in school. Parents and pupils are both very supportive. The historically strong relationship with the parish church and clergy has for a number of reasons been weakened over the past two years but there is good evidence that the acting headteacher is working both firmly and rapidly to make repairs.

### **Established strengths**

- The school's strongly inclusive approach to teaching
- The strong family atmosphere of the school
- The great support of parents

### **Focus for development**

- Re-establish a strong relationship with the local churches and clergy
- Fill the two vacancies for foundation governors on the governing body
- The headteacher and governors to undertake an evaluation of the school's role as a Church school using the Church Schools' Self –Evaluation toolkit

### **How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all its learners?**

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

The school is very proud of its inclusive nature. It has a large proportion of children with special needs and a year ago it admitted a statemented pupil with Downs Syndrome. The whole school has worked hard to adapt the curriculum to his needs. There is a strong commitment to the education of the whole child and most pupils feel that the school values them as individuals. The majority do well and many are able to fulfil their potential.

Relationships within the school are very good and are characterised by Christian concern for the well being of other. Pupils describe it as a very happy family and leavers are loathe to move on. Incidents of bad pupil behaviour have decreased rapidly. There is a peer guardianship scheme in place and pupils report that there is no longer any bullying. Parents are very supportive of the school. They find it welcoming and responsive to any concerns.

Pupils moral and social development are both good but opportunities for spiritual and cultural development are currently limited.

**Grade: 3**

### **What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?**

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

Collective worship has a secure place in the life of the school. The school has one room which is not used as a classroom and which can accommodate all the pupils and this has been designated by the acting headteacher as the 'church'. In the short time he has been in the school he has fixed a large wooden cross to the wall, reintroduced worship songs, devised a school prayer and refined the school's Golden Rules of behaviour. The acting headteacher and the other two members of the teaching staff each lead an act of collective worship during the week, the pupils themselves plan and lead another and the week is rounded off by a celebration assembly. The acting headteacher selects broad themes. There is now a system of recording collective worship in place. As yet there is no policy document.

An act of collective worship observed was led by two year 6 pupils on the theme of truthfulness. This included a story, a hymn, sung strongly, a discussion and the school prayer. The act of worship was well led and encouraged thoughtful discussion about the topic. Pupils clearly enjoyed it and it was evident from wider discussion with pupils that collective worship is valued.

Prayers are said at other times in the day, mainly before lunch and at the end of the school day.

Traditionally the church has been used for important occasions in the school year. It is hoped that these will be resumed shortly. Formerly too the church held a family service on one Sunday each month which was well attended by parents and pupils. Parents expressed considerable regrets that these no longer happens and also a strong wish for its reinstatement.

Overall the situation looks ripe for development and improvement.

**Grade: 3**

**How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a Church school?**

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a Church school is satisfactory.

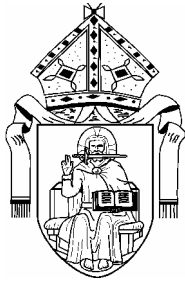
The school as a Church school has been in a difficult situation over the past two years or so. A long interregnum, the long term sickness of the substantive headteacher and the inability so far to replace the two foundation governors have together resulted in a dwindling of the formerly strong relationship between church and school. This has resulted in a cessation of both school visits to the church and clergy visits to the school.

However against that there is a strong governing body which is fully aware of the Christian foundation of the school and governors are aware of what differences that should make. The acting headteacher is also fully aware of the situation. In the short time he has been at the school he has made several moves to strengthen the Christian life of the school as noted earlier and to work with the new parish priest whom he has invited to come into the school and meet the parents. It is planned too to resume holding significant services within the church.

Pupils are fully aware of school's foundation as a church school as are parents who welcome it. Parents value especially the caring attitudes displayed and the overall Christian ethos which they see as highly beneficial for the pupils.

**Grade: 3**

<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship</b>	<b>Yes</b>
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**Diocese of Chichester**

**Judgement Recording Form**

Name of school:	Clapham and Patching CE Primary Clapham and Patching CE Primary
Date of inspection:	26 September 2007 26 September 2007
NS Inspector's number:	418418
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Number on roll:	3434
Type of school:	Primary

Rating 1-4

<b>How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all its learners?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a Church school?</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship</b>	<b>Yes</b>
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