



Clapham and Patching CE Primary School

Diocese of Chichester

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Inspection Report



Date of inspection:	4 February 2011
Name of inspector:	Hilary Ferries
NS inspector's number:	276
School address:	The Street Clapham Worthing West Sussex BN13 3UU
Unique reference number:	125977
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Number on roll:	41
Age range of pupils:	5-11
LA:	West Sussex
Name of chair of governors:	Revd Ann-Marie Crosse
Name of headteacher:	Jane Jones
Date of previous inspection:	September 2007

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

The school is located in the village of Clapham. It is a very small school which is growing and pupils travel from surrounding villages and towns as well as coming from Patching and Clapham. The overwhelming majority of pupils are of white British origin and there is a high percentage of children with statements of special educational needs. The headteacher has been in post for a year.

Summary judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Clapham and Patching CE Primary School as a Church of England school are satisfactory.

Since her appointment the headteacher has worked with the chair of governors, governing body and staff team to develop the school as a Church school. This is shown in the evolving mission statement, Christian values displayed around the school and a focus on Collective Worship. There is a strong culture of inclusion and care and support for pupils.

Grade: 3

Established strengths

- The commitment and determination of the headteacher, well supported by the governing body and staff, to develop the school as a Church school
- Strong links with the parish church and local community
- Inclusion and very positive relationships in the school, based on Christian values

Focus for development

- Complete and articulate the new Christian vision of the school, based on the identified Christian values
- Introduce monitoring and evaluation systems for the school as a Church school
- Increase opportunities for Spiritual and Cultural development across the school
- Encourage more pupil participation in Collective Worship

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

The recently appointed headteacher, with the support of the governing body and staff, is well on the way to making this school distinctively Christian. Pupils, staff and governors have identified several Christian values which are displayed around school and on which the revised vision will be based.

Pupils are very enthusiastic and positive about their school. They like their friendly teachers who 'make learning fun'. They enjoy the wide range of trips and opportunities the school offers. Opportunities for social and moral development are good. Behaviour in the school is good and well managed. Pupils enjoy looking after each other, are tolerant of each other and understand that we are all different and that difference needs to be celebrated. The pupils work well together, play well together and have a clear sense of right and wrong. Links with local schools enable the school to take part in sports tournaments and build relationships with children they may meet at secondary school. Spiritual and cultural education are satisfactory and have rightly been identified as areas for development. The learning environment has lively displays and posters which encourage and proclaim these aspects the school wishes to promote, such as: 'We are God's work of art'. There is a plan to develop reflection areas to extend these opportunities further.

Grade: 3

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

The school has a clear pattern of Collective Worship which is carefully planned by the headteacher, who is also the Worship coordinator. As a result the pupils know about and discuss the themes, such as awe and wonder and care for the environment, and talk about the relevance to their lives. They enjoy the different styles of the teachers, headteacher and local clergy who come in to lead worship on a regular basis. They attend the local churches for services and are very involved in leading the Collective Worship there. They say that they are often involved in worship at school, but would welcome the opportunity for even more active participation. The school has recently re-established the leavers' service at church which has increased the sense of a school family.

Despite the lack of school hall and the daily furniture moving that this entails, the school manages to achieve a reverent atmosphere and pupils were positively engaged in the act of worship observed. They sang well and participated enthusiastically. All learners were present for the worship. Observation and interviews with the children show that they are familiar with Anglican liturgy and traditions. Prayer has an ever growing place in the school and pupil talk about it as important to them: one described prayer as 'a message to God'.

Grade: 2

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

The headteacher's leadership of the school as a Church school is good and she has a strong commitment to developing the school as a Church school which is evident in all aspects of school life. She has devised themes for the year which have increased the impact of Collective Worship, she is creating a Christian vision for the school, involving all stakeholders and she is promoting a positive ethos based on Christian values. A key issue from the last inspection was for the school to complete the self evaluation of the school as a Church school and this has largely been achieved, although as yet the results are not incorporated into the school improvement plan. The school may wish to consider establishing a rolling programme of self evaluation built into the school improvement cycle.

Good relationships with the local community, for example with the Lighthouse Christian tearooms, and participation in village events such as the village show mean that the school has raised its profile in the community. Many local people attended the school nativity held in the church and in the village hall thus demonstrating their support for the school.

The school has addressed fully the other two of the three recommendations from the previous report: to re-establish the strong relationships with the local church and to fill the two foundation governors posts. The governing body is taking an active part in the development of the school and is well-placed to take a more strategic view of church school improvement.

Grade: 3