



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Hampstead Parochial Church of England Primary School

Holly Bush Vale
London
NW3 6TX

Previous SIAMS grade: outstanding

Diocese: London

Local authority: Camden

Dates of inspection: 19th November 2014

Date of last inspection: 19th November 2008

School's unique reference number: 100031

Headteacher: The Revd Simon Atkinson

Inspector's name and number: Roz Kimani : Derek Holloway 93

School context

Hampstead Parochial Church of England Primary School is a one form entry school situated in the heart of Hampstead. A third of pupils speak English as an additional language, however many of these children speak two languages fluently. The number of children who have been identified for pupil premium is less than national average. The number of children who receive support or have a statement of educational needs is lower than the national average at 6%. The school has experienced a demographic change over recent years. In 2014, to meet the need for primary places, the school admitted 60 children to an extended Early Years. The current head teacher has been in post since January 2010. A newly formed governing body was established in January 2013.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Hampstead Parochial as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The schools leaders promote a well embedded, distinctively Christian vision, which is shared with parents, governors, and children, which contribute to excellent behaviour and attitudes for learning.
- The centrality of prayer enables spiritual growth for all children and staff.
- The contribution religious education (RE) makes to the pupils spiritual, moral social and cultural (SMSC) development through a rich and varied curriculum including a particular focus on enquiry and thinking skills.

Areas to improve

- To extend the monitoring of collective worship to include children and governors.
- To develop the children's personal reflections in RE through extended pieces of writing.

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

Hampstead Parochial school offers children and staff a safe and harmonious community underpinned by Christian values. Parents are proud to send their children to the school and children love coming to Hampstead Parochial because 'it is nice to be part of a Christian community'. The distinctively Christian values are core to the school's daily life which is reflected in the inclusive behaviour of children and staff. Children are rewarded for demonstrating Christian values through certificates given by the head teacher in the achievement assembly, which the children are very keen to receive. The school has successfully adopted the 'Building Learning Power' approach, which has a strong emphasis on personal development and well being. This has been effectively linked with the schools Christian values system. As a result the behaviour for learning and the learning behaviour shown by the children throughout the school is exemplary. Children, parents and governors understand the Christian values and are used to resolve conflict and reflect on the actions the children take. The core Christian values are linked closely to biblical references and are displayed in all classrooms and common areas in the school. This helps the children to reflect on the core Christian values upheld by the school. The children were able to articulate the values and were especially clear on how important koinonia is to them. The children are very aware that Christianity is a multi-cultural faith and have a good understanding of other faiths because of the rich RE curriculum. The inclusivity of the school creates a safe and warm environment where the core values of koinonia, friendship, compassion, forgiveness, respect and responsibility demonstrably flourish.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is integral to the life of the school and makes a strong contribution to the spiritual moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. Collective worship gives the chance for all stakeholders to gather together, engage and respond to the clear teachings offered. Systematic planning of worship is led by the head teacher working with, parish clergy and youth worker. Collective worship has a strong emphasis on Jesus and teaches the children to focus on the core questions 'Who is Jesus Christ? What is the Church? What does it mean to be a Christian today?' As a result the planning explicitly links Biblical references to the Christian values, the Anglican calendar. Children enjoy collective worship as it gives them 'time to reflect'. Prayer is central to the school. A daily prayer during the morning briefing gives the staff time to be reflective before the start of the day. Children value time to pray both in class and during collective worship. The practice of bringing prayers to the altar during the Easter celebration at the church was remembered by parents and children as an important way to talk to God. During collective worship, the children are reflective and respectful demonstrating an understanding of the importance of the time to be together as a whole school. A variety of leaders for collective worship including the parish clergy, youth workers and visitors ensure that all children receive a rich variety of experiences. The head teacher regularly monitors collective worship, which leads directly to improvement in the quality of collective worship. However more opportunities for children and governors to evaluate and feedback need to be given. Currently there are few opportunities for children and governors to be involved in the evaluation or planning of collective worship.

The effectiveness of the RE is outstanding

There has been significant improvement since the previous inspection in the quality of the syllabus and the teaching of RE (RE). The school has achieved the RE Quality Mark at Gold level in 2013 which demonstrates the commitment of the school to delivering high quality teaching and learning in RE (RE). Rigorous monitoring and tracking of attainment RE is ensuring that all children make progress and attainment is in least in line with the other core subjects. RE has a high profile within the curriculum and is valued as a core subject. The adoption of an enquiry lead approach to the teaching in RE gives the children opportunities to develop higher

level thinking and to explore Christianity and other world faiths in a very mature way. They are skilled in applying their knowledge of Christianity to show a deep respect for faith and to enquire and explore how this can be reflected in their own lives. Children recalled a number of faiths that they have learned about and showed a deep understanding of how others practice their faith. The adoption of the diocesan syllabus has provided a curriculum which has engaged and inspired the children in RE. The 'cover sheet', which is used to demonstrate explicit links between units of work, Christian values and the overview for every term for each class, has directly led to improvement in the quality of teaching and learning. There is a clear focus for the development of the children's SMSC development within the curriculum. The changes in the status of RE and the high profile of the subject is directly due to the commitment and drive of the RE leader. Regular professional development, advice from the London Diocese, guidance from St John's church and the support from the head teacher have led to significant improvement in the subject. Children are able to discover Christianity and other world faiths through a wide range of skills. To be able to explore their learning further, the children need the chance to develop their understanding through extended writing in RE.

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

Leaders and managers articulate a clear Christian vision for the school: in this they have the support of staff and governors. The mission statement 'to uphold and promote Christian virtues and beliefs by maintaining daily acts of worship and teaching Christian spiritual and moral beliefs' embodies the life of the school. The governing body is effective as a critical friend offering guidance and support as well as holding leaders to account for the effectiveness as a church school to ensure improvement. The head teachers self-evaluation of the school as a church school is accurate and is shared with all stakeholders. This leads to clear action plans identifying areas to improve. This school is now well placed to extend its practices in church school evaluation to involve all stakeholders including the children and parents. The worship leader is the head teacher and the RE leader is the deputy head teacher demonstrating a clear priority for both areas within the school. The school is continuing to develop the already strong links with the church with regular visits from the clergy and other church members. The school is involved in supporting other church schools through its sharing of ideas and professional development. The school is very much part of the community. A key strength of the school is the sensitivity in which the very challenging changes have led to opportunities for parents, governors and children to fully immerse themselves as part of the schools life. The parents refer to the school as a 'very special place, which achieves inclusiveness'.

SIAMS report November 2014 Hampstead Parochial Church of England Primary School ; Holly Bush Vale NW3 6TX