

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Pyrford, Church of England (VA), Primary School**

Coldharbour Road  
Pyrford  
Woking GU22 8SP

#### **Diocese of Guildford**

Local authority: Surrey  
Date of inspection: 01/03/2013  
Date of last inspection: 04/03/2008  
School's unique reference number: 131906  
Headteacher: Mrs K Krynicki  
Inspector's name and number: Dr Peter Simpson (NSI 192)

#### **School context**

Pyrford Church of England Primary School is a large, oversubscribed school with 450 children on roll. Learners come from many different faiths, cultures and backgrounds. The proportion of children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities is in line with national average. The school has recently had an Ofsted inspection which judged the school to be outstanding.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Pyrford Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

This is an outstanding Church of England school. It provides a very high quality education which prepares all learners for the challenges of secondary education and life after school. The school has a strong distinctly Christian character which is sensitive to learners of all faiths. This enhances the quality of relationships and the learning experience for all children. The leadership of the school is very strong at all levels with a determined drive to continuously improve outcomes and quality for all learners whilst ensuring that relationships and the school's distinctive Christian ethos remains central. Links with the parish are very strong and appropriate.

#### **Established strengths**

- The Christian ethos of the school is outstanding and provides a strong framework for all the school's activities and its further development
- The leadership of the school is outstanding and provides a determined drive to improve even further
- Links with the parish are strong, effective and sensitive to the needs of the school's learners

#### **Focus for development**

- Improve the quality of marking in Religious Education to enable learners to respond to teachers' comments in an interactive way so that they can improve their work even further.

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

Strong and determined school leadership ensures that learners achieve well and are well prepared for their secondary education and life after school. The continued drive for improvement provides further opportunities for the quality of education and the overall school experience to be enhanced and includes a wide range of extras-curricular activities. The school has a strong Christian ethos which learners both understand and appreciate. They are very clear about what makes Pyrford special. Relationships are excellent and learners have a good understanding of different cultures and faiths leading to a harmonious and caring school community where individuals respect and value each other. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) is very strong, with Christian values encouraging and challenging learners' thinking across the curriculum. Children are reflective, they have a strong sense of right and wrong and are supportive and caring towards each other. Pyrford School is justifiably proud of its 'distinctive but inclusive' ethos which was very evident during the inspection.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

The school provides a range of opportunities for worship including whole school and worship in separate key stages. Planning is thorough and follows the cycle of the Church's year whilst allowing flexibility and innovation. Worship takes place in school and the Church of the Good Shepherd. Learners are very enthusiastic about being involved in Church services and showed a clear understanding of the purpose and character of the worship. A new feature since the last inspection is the introduction of 'Open the Book' assemblies. These are led by the parish team with involvement of clergy, youth workers, teachers, teaching assistants, parents and children. This approach brings the Bible to life and learners are very appreciative of this new development. The Act of Worship observed was outstanding. Learners were attentive, they participated well, sang with great enthusiasm and were reflective at appropriate times. The school has acted upon the recommendations from the last inspection and has evaluated the impact of worship on learners and involved the children in this evaluation. The school, supported by the foundation governors and the clergy, has a sensitive and appropriate approach to the development of worship and this is a feature of the way in which the school, in partnership with the parish plans the development of all areas of Christian distinctiveness in the school.

The school fulfills the statutory requirements for collective worship.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

The school has a strong programme of Religious Education which follows the Guildford Diocesan Guidelines. The planning is thorough and well-designed, enabling all learners to make good progress. The quality of work seen is consistently above the national expectations. The learners say they enjoy Religious Education because it is interesting and fun. They speak with great confidence about what they have learned and why it is important. Four part-lessons were observed during the inspection. All lessons were at least good with many outstanding features. In one lesson learners were exploring the concept of temptation. The quality of discussion, reasoned argument and understanding was outstanding. In another lesson children were learning about the cross as a symbol of Christianity. This was linked to History and Geography as well as the Religious Education content. The level of understanding and the confidence with which this understanding was delivered was at a very high level. Children's work is marked accurately and precisely but, in order to develop further, the marking could be more interactive and encourage a response from the children so that they know what they need to do to improve and can practise that improvement.

The school meets the statutory requirements for Religious Education.

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

The headteacher has a clear and decisive approach which is based upon a distinctively Christian ethos. All leaders and all staff in the school support this ethos which enhances the educational experience for all learners. Governors are well-informed and hold the school to account whilst providing strong support. There is a carefully planned and sensitive approach to developing all aspects of the school including Christian distinctiveness. The dedicated involvement of the Rector as Vice Chair of Governors and the direct involvement of the foundation governors secures and develops the Christian character of the school. All staff are supportive of the school ethos and new staff are very well inducted and supported into all aspects of school life and the distinctive ethos of the school. Parents interviewed were very supportive of the school and how it is developing. This school is very well led and managed and the distinctive Christian character provides a clear framework for all the school's development in the future.