



### **Kingsclere Church of England Primary School**

Ash Grove  
Kingsclere  
Newbury  
RG20 5RE

<b>Diocese:</b>	<b>Winchester</b>
Local authority:	Hampshire
Dates of inspection	20 March 2013
Date of last inspection:	27, 29, 30 November 2006
School's unique reference number:	116295
Headteacher:	Mrs Lucy Chambers (Interim Headteacher)
Inspector's name and Number:	Mr Neil Birkett [593]

#### **School context**

Kingsclere Church of England Controlled Primary School is an average school. It draws its 228 pupils from the local village and surrounding area all from a wide range of social backgrounds. The proportion of children with learning difficulties and disabilities is average. The current Interim Headteacher has been in post since September 2012 and will be succeeded by the present Deputy Headteacher in the Summer term.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Kingsclere as a Church of England school are good.**

This is a good Church of England Primary School. There is a strong positive feel in the school, especially after recent developments/changes under the guidance of the Interim Headteacher and her Deputy Headteacher. This is a credit to their undoubted management skills. They have made good progress based upon a growth in mutual support and a corporate belief in their own destiny. All stakeholders understand that fundamental changes need to take place.

#### **Established strengths**

- The school has made good, steady progress recently after a difficult year, especially with regard to staff moral and monitoring pupil progress.
- The school has established itself in the eyes of the local community, parents, staff and pupils, as a caring, safe and protective school.
- The pupils are well behaved and have a strong sense of loyalty and support for the wellbeing of both the school and each other.

#### **Focus for development**

- To examine and reflect upon the School's Christian Foundation responsibilities and ensure all stakeholders understand it.
- To ensure that the Christian Values of the school have an impact in all documentation and policies.
- To evaluate and monitor Collective Worship and ensure that it strengthens pupils' spiritual understanding.

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

The atmosphere in the school is both relaxed and orderly. The pupils feel valued and enjoy coming to school. They are proud of their achievements, especially the work of the school

council which provides them with a good opportunity to express their views and develop new ideas. Pupils feel inspired by the introduction of positions of responsibilities, especially 'playground buddies'. The pupils were able to express the basic concepts of Christianity and explain evidence of the Christian Faith around the school. Religious Education is based upon the Hampshire County Agreed Syllabus and is taught either within a weekly lesson or as a module. The contents of the lessons were reviewed 3 years ago. Parents were supportive of the impact of the teaching of Christian values. Also, parents praised both the vast improvement in the communications between the school, staff and the community. Under the careful guidance of the Interim Headteacher and her Deputy other improvements have included, better team work, clearer values, clarity of behavioural expectations, improved motivation and organisation. It is noticeable that the impact of these changes upon the pupils has improved both their progress and their behaviour. The school encourages its pupils to develop social skills and how to apply them to their relationships and behaviour. The School Golden Rules are clearly displayed around the school. The values were reviewed by all stakeholders in October 2012. They provide a good central focal point for the life of the school, especially within lessons and Collective Worship. The pupils behave in a well-mannered way throughout the school and especially during lunchtimes. One of the Lunchtime Assistants stated that the school had become more orderly recently. The school has some evidence of its Christian heritage within displays in limited areas. However, these do need to be improved and given more prominence, especially within the classrooms. Reflection tables were variable in standard and do need to be reviewed.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory.**

Collective Worship is seen as a fundamental aspect of the school's life and the church community. Both the Headteacher and the local incumbent plan the timetable and its contents. They have included all the major festivals of the Anglican Church with guidance information from the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocese Education Department. The main themes are based mostly upon the School's Golden Values, which are developed further within the classroom sessions. Collective worship is well resourced with a wide range of books, artefacts and music, including a selection of musical CDs, which were a gift from the local Parochial Parish Council. To develop this further, it would be helpful to add a number of appropriate DVDs to the school's collection, especially reflecting Biblical stories as these would enhance the visual quality of the Collective Worship sessions. At present, there is a very limited amount of monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship in place within the school. The main school Collective Worship was taken by the Vicar in the Main Hall. There was a good orderly entrance and the pupils were very attentive and reflective during the whole proceedings, including the lighting of a candle, an opening prayer and a concluding prayer for a reflective period. The main theme was the symbolism of the Easter Story, especially the creation of Palm Crosses. It involved a good question and answer session, followed by a hymn, which was sung with great gusto. There are strong links with the parish church helped by the enthusiastic and loyal support of the local Vicar. The major Festivals of the Anglican church are held in the Parish Church to which all parents are invited.

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

The recent focus upon standards by Ofsted has meant an extensive review has had to be carried out by the Headteacher, staff and Governors over the past nine months. Everyone has had to work as an effective team and respond to individual needs/progress of the pupils, the parents and the school. The priority has rightly been to improve the standards of teaching and learning in core subjects and to set out clear monitoring and evaluation procedures. It was acknowledged that discussion within the Governing Body, referring to the school's Christian distinctiveness/Character, has not been a priority. The Senior Leadership Team and Governors need to begin an appraisal of their role and leadership, to enable the school to make better progress as a Church school in the future. This needs to particularly focus upon the school's Christian Foundation and its Trust Deeds. However, the professional leadership of the Interim Headteacher is excellent and has led to much needed decisions. Within the context of the recent review of the School's Golden Rules last Autumn, the opportunity should now be taken to revisit them to see how well everyone understands the distinctiveness of the school as a church school. Everyone should consider their part in ensuring that the Christian values are actively embraced, promoted and embedded in all daily actions, school displays and school documentation. Future leadership issues have been encouraged and have seen

its aims attained in the appointment of the Deputy Headteacher to his new post. The collaboration between the school, the local community, the local parish church and other local denominational churches has been excellent. Pupils remarked how much they enjoyed recent visits to the local Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches and were proud to show the follow up display. The school support a number of annual village community events, including the Scarecrow Festival. In addition, the Parochial Parish Council donates Bibles to all year 6 leavers at their final school service in the parish Church.

SIAS report March 2013, Kingsclere CE Primary, Newbury, RG20 5RE



## Judgement Recording Form (NSJRF)

*This form is to be attached to the main SIAS report and returned to the diocese in which the school is situated and to the National Society.*

Name of school: Kingsclere Church of England Primary School  
 Address of School: Ash Grove, Kingsclere, Newbury, RG20 5RE  
 School URN: 116295  
 Date of inspection: 20 March 2013  
 NS Inspector's Number: Mr Neil Birkett [593]  
 Type of Church school: Voluntary Controlled  
 Number of pupils: 215  
 Phase of education: Primary

**Has Diocesan Quality Assurance been obtained for this report?** Yes  
*(delete appropriate word)*

**Rating 1-4**

How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?	<b>2</b>
How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?	<b>2</b>
What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?	<b>3</b>
How effective is the religious education?	<b>N/A</b>
How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?	<b>3</b>
The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship	<b>Yes</b>
The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education *	<b>N/A</b>

\* *Voluntary Aided Schools (delete appropriate word)*