

Diocese of Canterbury



STATUTORY INSPECTION OF ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

Monkton Church of England Primary School

The Street

Monkton

Ramsgate

Kent

CT12 4JQ

Telephone 01843 821394

School Category: Voluntary Controlled

Diocese: Canterbury

LEA: Kent

Inspected on 2nd November 2011

Last inspected: 23rd and 25th May 2007

Unique Reference: 118697

Head Teacher: Janet Graham

Chair of Governors: Rev. Robert Coles

Inspector: Anne-Marie Trustram Inspector No. 635

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

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Inspector's name and number: Mrs Anne-Marie Trustram 635

School context

Monkton Church of England Primary School is a smaller than average sized school with 105 pupils on roll. Most pupils are White British, taught in mixed age classes apart from the Foundation class. Outcomes at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 are above national expectations. The school has recently benefited from a significant building programme and received an outstanding OfSTED report.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Monkton Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

Christian principles underpin the life of the school and nurture all aspects of pupils' lives. The school provides a Christian environment where all pupils can aspire to reach their potential.

Established strengths

- The very good relationships between staff and pupils which are based upon strong Christian values, including trust, friendship, endurance and hope
- The inclusive policy of the school which ensures that every child is cared for as an individual and made to feel special
- The strength of the partnership between the school, the parish church and the wider community

Focus for development

- To link the school's strong Christian values explicitly to Bible stories and use the environment to reinforce them to all stakeholders
- To further develop pupils' spiritual experience of Collective Worship by providing more opportunities for kinaesthetic activities in order to meet the needs of all learning styles
- To revisit the school's strong Christian values with parents

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

Monkton Church of England Primary School is a calm, happy and caring school that provides a Christian environment where pupils are made to feel special and respected as individuals. The school's expectation of pupils' behaviour and their academic performance is very high, resulting in exemplary attitudes and behaviour. Following guidance from the Diocese, the school has adopted nine Christian values, for example, forgiveness and friendship. These values underpin the life of the school, and are expressed in excellent relationships at all levels. All staff and governors are committed to these values which now need to be linked to Bible stories and reflected within the environment in order to further reinforce pupils' understanding of them. As one pupil said when referring to the story of Zacchaeus, 'No matter how bad the situation, you should always forgive people'. They are beginning to experience the concept of restorative justice as they learn to resolve minor conflicts independently, although they realise that sometimes they may need adult support. Some of the youngest pupils can demonstrate

the spiritual nurturing that they benefit from in the school. For example, one very young pupil was able to articulate his understanding of symbolism through lighting a candle by saying, 'When someone dies you light a candle and say a prayer'. From observing lessons and looking at examples of work, it appears that standards in R.E. are at least in line with national expectations and in some older pupils, standards are above average. Through the planned curriculum, daily worship and extra-curricular activities all pupils are able to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. (S.M.S.C.) The Christian ethos of the school is both supportive and challenging and manifestly enhances pupils' spiritual development. Pupils are proactive in supporting a variety of charities, including a substantial involvement in the Fair Trade organisation. They are growing in their understanding of the impact of fair trade on the lives of others in the wider global community. Through curriculum and cultural links with Belgium and Japan they are extending their experience of global citizenship.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Collective Worship is clearly identified on the school improvement plan and the planning ensures there is a clear focus and daily records are kept. The staff use the Diocesan scheme for an outline plan for Collective Worship, but they plan to take further ownership of the scheme by amending the daily plans to meet the needs of the pupils. Regular evaluations take place which involve both pupils and parents. The school has responded to parents' requests to be further involved in school acts of worship as well as worship in the church. In discussion with pupils, and through their evaluations, they indicate that they would like further practical involvement in acts of worship, including drama related activities in order to meet the needs of different learning styles. This is an area of development for the school. A member of the retired clergy leads an act of worship each term; this would be an opportunity for pupils to be introduced to some Anglican responses. Pupils value the prayer board in the corridor as well as the prayer box in the hall. These prayers are offered up as part of the regular Friday act of worship. The school has a strong commitment to the annual service of Remembrance. Pupils' spiritual development is significantly nurtured through its commitment to maintaining the war graves in the churchyard, where each year they lay a cross. As part of its commitment to community cohesion, the school invites members of the wider community to join together in the Remembrance service and the two minute silence. Parents and visitors are invited to attend Fair Trade services and other services, including Sports Aid.

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

The strong partnership with the church and the community creates a welcoming Christian ethos where everyone feels cared for and valued. The head teacher and staff are totally committed to the well-being of all pupils, fostering not only their academic progress but also their spiritual development through the well planned curriculum. The school benefits from an unusually stable staffing situation and consequently pupils are well known by all staff. The head teacher's well-articulated vision for the school as a place where, 'Everyone is special and pupils are not just data!' is exemplified in all aspects of the school's daily life and pastoral care. The school has widened its Christian influence by becoming part of the recently formed Thanet Family of Church Schools which serves to reinforce the Christian bond between them, as well as strengthening the leadership through mutual support. Both governors and staff have been involved in the self-evaluation process which has led the school to continue its cycle of improvement. Within this cycle there is an opportunity now for the school to revisit its explicit Christian values with parents. The school is committed to offering pupils wider experiences of spiritual development beyond its own environment. Through participating in an event to celebrate religious education, pupils produced a piece of Christian art work which was initially displayed in Canterbury Cathedral and is now proudly mounted in the school hall. The school has responded to the areas for development highlighted in the previous inspection. Governors are aware of the need for succession planning, acknowledging that in the rapidly changing education system, it will be even more important for them to assert and preserve the Anglican status of the school in the event of any forthcoming federation with another school. Parents referred to the symbiotic relationship between home and school. As one parent said, 'Everyone is equal here and everyone is special'.