



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### **Newdigate Endowed Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School**

Village Street  
Newdigate  
Dorking  
RH5 5DJ

**Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding**

**Current inspection grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Guildford**

Local authority: Surrey

Dates of inspection: 18 November, 2015

Date of last inspection: 23 September, 2010

School's unique reference number: 125192

Headteacher: Mrs Paula Bliss

Inspector's name and number: Dr Peter Simpson 192

#### **School context**

Newdigate Endowed Church of England (Aided) Infant School is a small school with 96 children on roll. Most learners are of White British Heritage. The percentage of learners with special educational needs or disabilities and those eligible for pupil premium is below the national average. The headteacher was appointed in April 2015 after the school had a period of interim leadership. The religious education co-ordinator took up her current role in September 2015.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Newdigate Endowed Church of England Infant School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The school's values of Love, Peace, Trust, Thanks, Forgiveness and Hope are firmly grounded in Christian teaching and permeate the life of this Church of England school.
- Outcomes for learners are good and improving, ensuring children are well-prepared for the next stage in their education.
- Religious Education is outstanding and is integral to the whole curriculum.
- Relationships throughout the school are excellent and provide a supportive framework for learners and their families.
- The school is a well-regarded part of the parish and the wider community so that there are strong and effective relationships

#### **Areas to improve**

- Consider developing further opportunities for learners to worship in smaller groups so that they can experience developing their own contribution to acts of worship

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

The school's mission statement of 'In God's hands we learn and grow' is underpinned by distinctly Christian values of love, peace, trust, thanks, forgiveness and hope. These values are central to the life of the school and are understood and lived out by staff, governors, and the learners themselves. Parents are very supportive of these values and the associated behaviours of kindness, honesty, thoughtfulness, hard-work and respect. Learners understand how the values and behaviours make the school a secure place to be where everyone is supported to do their best and enjoy their learning. Learners respect and value each other and have a good understanding of how to support each other which is demonstrated by excellent behaviour.

Learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is very effective due to the whole school supportive Christian ethos which is enhanced by a well-structured religious education curriculum, a well-planned worship programme and highly relevant school values which nurture and challenge all learners.

Recent school data analysis confirms that all learners are making good progress across the newly shaped curriculum and recent assessment shows that attainment has risen during this academic year.

The partnership with St Peter's church and the wider community is strong, with the school reaching out to church, parents/carers and other schools whilst the parish and the community are fully involved with the school.

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

Parents, governors, staff and learners place high importance on collective worship which is central to the life of the school. Worship is well planned, giving a consistency of quality whilst allowing flexibility and response to current issues. Learners experience a wide range of themes and activities. They are confident both to take part in and lead worship, participating with enthusiasm and respect. There is a weekly act of worship in St Peter's Church which strengthens learners' understanding of the Church's year and Anglican traditions. Worship is based on the school's values and encourages learners to take responsibility for their own behaviour and how they can support others. Collective worship has a strong focus on Christian belief and the ideas generated are shared through Prayer Spaces in the school so that learners can reflect upon them later. The clergy and other members of the parish team are actively involved in both the planning and delivery of the programme of worship. The school has a central role in the parish and is highly regarded.

Learners understand personal prayer and have opportunities to explore their spiritual journey in a supportive Christian environment which demonstrates its care and value of children from all faiths and those of no faith. The quality of worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by staff and governors and this provides a firm basis for making improvements.

The school meets the statutory requirements for collective worship.

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

The religious education curriculum, based on the Guildford Diocesan Guidelines, is very well planned and provides a challenging programme for all learners. Long, medium term and lesson plans are very thorough and allow for appropriate differentiation to ensure that tasks are pitched at the correct level for individual learners.

The standard of religious education as verified by lesson observation, work scrutiny and examination of assessment data is high. Learners have a good understanding of challenging concepts and are able to apply a wide range of higher level skills to their enquiry based learning.

Evidence from 'RE Class Books' shows the effectiveness of the thought provoking lessons learners experience. Conversations with learners demonstrates their high level of understanding.

The teaching of religious education is innovative and draws upon other subject areas such as art and drama which enables learners to explore difficult concepts through different media. Evidence shows teaching in religious education is outstanding. RE is led by a highly talented and knowledgeable teacher who has been instrumental in leading the whole school staff to revise and improve the programmes of study. RE has a very high status in the school and is central to Newdigate's core curriculum.

Religious Education is integral to the learners' strong spiritual, moral, social and cultural development which enables them to be confident, sensitive and respectful of others and their cultures.

The parish church of St Peter is an excellent resource for the school's RE programme and is creatively used to provide learners with new experiences which develop their understanding of Anglican traditions such as baptism.

Assessment of RE is excellent and highly focused on ensuring learners achieve well and receive appropriate support to move on to the next step of their learning.

The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education.

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

All involved in this school have a strong sense of Christian purpose. Governors have a clear Christian vision for the school which focuses on the inclusive nature of all that it does. There is an explicit drive to make Newdigate the best school it can be for the children it serves and their families. The school's mission statement, values and supporting behaviours drive everything it does and are shared by governors, headteacher, staff, parents and the learners themselves. The headteacher has a thorough understanding of the school's performance and has designed, with the governors and staff, a clear plan for further improvement which concentrates on the development of the whole child whilst maintaining and enhancing the Christian ethos. The school's Christian character is central to the work of the school and is clearly appreciated by parents and the learners. Adults are excellent role models, reinforcing the school's values and behaviours in their interactions with learners and each other.

The links with parents, the parish, the diocese and the wider community are excellent.

The areas for development in the last report have been appropriately and successfully addressed by the school.

SIAMS report November, 2015. Newdigate Endowed CE (VA) Infant School RH5 5DJ