



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Crazies Hill Cof E Primary School

Crazies Hill

Wargrave

Reading

RG10 8LY

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Good

Diocese: Oxford

Local authority: Wokingham

Dates of inspection: 4 May 2016

Date of last inspection: July 2011

School's unique reference number: 109983

Headteacher: Eileen Holmes

Inspector's name and number: Jacquie Coles 840

School context

Crazies Hill Church of England Primary School was founded in 1861 to educate the local children of Crazies Hill and the neighbouring hamlets of Cockpole Green and Warren Row. It is a smaller than average primary school in a rural setting in the borough of Wokingham. The number of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding is lower than average. The number of pupils with special educational needs is comparable to the national average. The local parish church is three miles away in Wargrave.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Crazies Hill as a Church of England school are good

- The impact of the school's Christian values is seen in the outstanding behaviour of the learners and in the supportive and respectful relationships between all members of the school community.
- The Christian character of the school has a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners.
- Learners' spiritual development is a key focus, with the use of challenging questions successfully enabling pupils to enquire, reflect and express their thoughts well.
- Religious education (RE) has a high profile within the school, contributing well to the school's Christian character.

Areas to improve

- Formalise systems for monitoring and evaluation so that governors fully secure the potential as a church school
- Ensure the Christian distinctiveness is explicit, threaded through and affecting all aspects of school life.

- Create spontaneous opportunities for pupils to contribute to daily worship to foster their spiritual development

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

Crazies Hill seeks 'to provide an education to the highest quality based on Christian values'. It is successful in its aim as pupils attain well and make good progress in reading, writing and mathematics. A caring, family ethos with strong, supportive relationships arise from its teaching of Biblical values of love, respect, trust, honesty, forgiveness and fairness. A parent remarked that Christian values are a big part of the children's lives here – they start as soon as they start in Reception. The school's Christian values also result in pupils working and playing co-operatively and collaboratively together with excellent levels of behaviour. Friendship and bullying issues are rare because pupils feel safe and display compassion and understanding for their peers, based on their knowledge of Jesus' response to others. Consequently, attendance is good because pupils enjoy coming to school. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all its learners is outstanding due to staff successfully developing confidence, articulacy and maturity in its pupils. Staff are highly skilled in the use of questioning and this is developed further in the junior classes who enjoy participating in debates. Displays in the entrance, classrooms and corridors visibly reinforce the Christian values of the school. RE at Crazies Hill encourages pupils to think, enquire, discuss and express their thoughts well through drama, art, music and writing. Learners enjoy the subject and pupils readily talk about how it furthers their understanding of the life and work of Jesus and other faiths. However the school lacks any specific links which could help develop pupils' understanding of Christianity across the world. Visits to a variety of places of worship greatly facilitate pupils' understanding and deepen the respect they have for those of other faiths.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship and class reflection areas make a valuable contribution to deepening the children's spiritual awareness. Pupils say they value times to sit and be still and to think about the messages they hear in collective worship and how they could apply these to their own lives. They show a good level of understanding of how the Bible teaches them about the life of Jesus; that it 'teaches you ways to live and what rules to abide by' and 'it explains how to improve and how to be a better person.' Acts of worship have also given children a good understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is an emphasis on regular prayer throughout the school day. Pupils enjoy opportunities to take responsibility as monitors, in the writing of prayers or by undertaking readings at special festivals which link to the seasons of the church year. Parents report that collective worship often results in their children chatting keenly about the stories they have heard and feel they enable children to form and build positive relationships. The school has successfully developed a love of singing with the choir taking the school's Christian distinctiveness out into the community. Special occasions are marked by services in the local church, which are well attended by parents. As a result pupils show an understanding of Anglican traditions and practices with appropriate liturgical greetings, prayers and reflection. The vicar oversees five church schools but is able to support Crazies Hill when he can. Collective worship is planned and incorporates the school's Christian values well ensuring that they are understood as Christian and rooted in the Bible. A desire to live out these values results in pupils learning about the work of charities with opportunities for school councillors to plan school responses to these. Not all staff regularly attend daily acts of worship, which limits the impact it has on the school community. There is a basic level of evaluation but more could be done to inform and improve future provision. The

pupils voice that they would like to have more opportunities to contribute to everyday acts of worship.

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

The Headteacher and governors have developed a vision, based on Christian values which underpins the good quality of education in the school. Staff are ambitious for every child to do their best and to be the best that they can be. The Christian values are exemplified through the calm, nurturing and positive working environment and are consistently modelled by all members of the school community. The committed staff team, inspired by the Headteacher, work effectively together. Parents speak positively about the impact the school has on their children. They express pleasure in their children's progress and show strong levels of support for the school and confidence in the leadership. Parents feel able to raise any concerns and have confidence that that they will be responded to. Despite the church being a little distance away, partnerships with the local church deepen the school's Anglican foundations with the school visiting for acts of worship each term. There are good links with the Diocese in developing staff and governors through training, thereby helping to support and secure future leadership of the school as a church school. There is a central ethos that adults are learners too, with leaders proactively supporting staff development. All staff support the Christian foundation of the school with teaching regularly based on the school's Christian values. Safeguarding procedures are effective; pupils feel safe and are confident that teachers care for them well. The act of collective worship is a daily focus with the arrangements meeting statutory requirements. RE is given a high profile and supports the ethos of the school well with the RE coordinator regularly dialoguing with staff to enable them to deliver effective lessons. Learners' understanding of local, national and global communities are explored through the school's charitable work. The Christian values explicitly drive the ethos of the school and impact on all aspects of life and work, which was an area for development from the last inspection. However, more can be done to ensure the Christian vision is sufficiently explicit and embedded throughout the school's documentation. More formalised strategies and systems for monitoring will also enable governors to ensure that the Christian character of the school is fully developed and the impact of the school as a church school is fully realised with clear evaluation benchmarks built within a whole school improvement plan.

SIAMS report May 2016 Crazies Hill CE Primary School, Wargrave, Reading RG10 8LY