

Lockerley Endowed Church of England Primary School

Head Teacher
Mr Jamie Dodson

Administrative Officer
Mrs Julie Black



Butts Green
Lockerley
Romsey
Hants
SO51 0JG

e-mail: j.dodson@lockerley.hants.sch.uk

Telephone: 01794 340485
Web page: www.lockerleyprimary.co.uk

Friday 6th January 2017

Dear Parents

Re: Questionnaire results for parents on the distinctive Christian Character of Lockerley C of E Primary School

I am writing to inform you about the questionnaire results on the distinctive Christian character of our school.

We are due to be inspected by SIAMS next Wednesday and therefore a perfect time to share those results. A SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection focuses on the effect that the Christian ethos of a church school has on the children and young people who attend it. Church schools employ a variety of strategies and styles, which reflect their particular local context or church tradition in order to be distinctive and effective. Inspectors will, therefore, not be looking to apply a preconceived template of what a church school should be like.

The principal objective of SIAMS inspections is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school.

Towards this objective, inspectors seek answers to four key questions.

- **How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?**
- **What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?**
- **How effective is the Religious Education?**
- **How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?**

Our last church inspection took place in 2012 and is available on the school website if you are interested in reading it.

In that inspection, we received a 'Good' grading and this time we are striving to at the very least maintain our 'Good' grading. As a school we believe that we have made significant improvements to the Christian ethos of the school, and your views on what we do well and need to further develop are so important.

We received 56 parental responses out of a possible 64 which is an excellent return rate.

The results are provided on the next page.

		Yes	No	Don't Know
1	Are you aware that the school is a Church School?	100%		
2	Do you believe that the school is a good Church School?	96%		4%
3	The school is a caring institution based on clear Christian values.	96%		4%
4	The school keeps me informed about my child's progress.	96%		4%
5	The school keeps me well informed about the curriculum and school events.	100%		
6	The school keeps me informed about the Religious Education provided by the school.	88%	5%	7%
7	I am happy with the Religious Education provided by the school.	91%		9%
8	As a parent I feel able to enjoy and participate in the Christian ethos of the school.	100%		
9	I am happy with the Collective Worship provided by the school.	100%		
10	I am able to attend Acts of Worship provided by the school.	95%	4%	1%
11	I am made to feel welcome when visiting the school.	100%		
12	The school has excellent links with the local church, the parish and the clergy.	98%		2%
13	The school has links with the diocese.	71%		29%
14	The school has links with the wider community.	86%		14%
15	I see the school as inclusive where everyone is valued.	100%		

I will not go through every area above, however we are already trying to address some of these areas.

In relation to question 6, each term we provide class newsletters that always state what we are doing in all subjects, including RE.

Our links with the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Board of Education are strong. Each week I receive updates from the diocese about events and courses which are available to the school. I recently met with Richard Wharton, who is the Diocesan Schools Adviser to go through areas in which we can further improve our school. Richard also provided staff training last term on 'spirituality' in school. When our year 6 children visit Winchester Cathedral in the summer term that event is arranged through the diocese. Last June (and in 2014) our children from year 5/6 attended the Life Expo event where the children used PDA technology, with text, graphics, DVD and sound, to learn of the life of Jesus, his Jewish roots, his teaching and miracles, and his death, burial and resurrection.

We are always trying to improve our links with the wider community. Our morning guided reading sessions are a super example of how we involve the local community in the school with adults from the village reading alongside the children every day.

In December we invited the wider community to attend our dress rehearsal of 'The Sound of Music' and received many compliments about the production.

Thank you so much for inviting us to the dress rehearsal of The Sound of Music – we really enjoyed it. The children did so well; they were visibly having fun and working together beautifully. What a lot of words and movements to remember! Please pass on our congratulations to them and the staff.

At our termly church services we are very grateful to local musicians who attend the service to play for us.

Miss Banks has a friend who teaches in China and she is working hard to create links with their school and has recently received letters which we will share with the children in the coming weeks before writing back to them.

Some individual comments included:

‘More information on what being a church school means’ – we have leaflets available in the school office and on our ‘St. John’s Church’ page on the website.

‘Members of staff to be at the church for 8.45 a.m.’ – since we received this comment either Miss Banks or myself has been at the church for 8.45 a.m.

‘Not having all worship and church goings/outings on a Friday’ – this is tricky as our celebration assembly is always either on a Friday morning or afternoon and usually the children work on their church collective worships throughout the week. If anyone has a specific request for a service to be moved then please come and let me know and I will see what we can do.

I would like to leave you with an anonymous positive response and to the parent(s) that wrote it a massive thank you.

‘The incomparable church ‘assemblies’ which the children create themselves, interpretations of Christian messages directly applicable to their own lives – such as ‘friendship’, show they celebrate moral values, acting them out through dance, play and in providing art work.

The act of placing poppies on the village green outside school to commemorate the Battle of the Somme was truly moving and an amazing visual memorial, created after a day of research and enactment with local secondary school children in costume and the culmination of whole school, parents and community worship.

I also love the celebration assembly hymn singing prefixed by appropriate affirmation and concluded with prayers and thanks giving when the whole school say ‘let us show care and concern for one another’.

Furthermore the caring community and wholly inclusive environment the staff provide – without exception – is outstanding. The positive welcoming ethos and relationships with parents and carers is at the heart of building meaningful foundations for life and adulthood; based on Christian values’.

Further positive responses to the question ‘what I like about our school as a church school’:

- 1) Links with church community are excellent.
- 2) Caring Christian environment.
- 3) Good Christian values and ethos.
- 4) Links with the local church/our vicar. I really enjoy the church acts of Worship during the school year.
- 5) The sense of community and Christian ethos
- 6) I particularly like the special services, such as Easter, Harvest, and Christmas etc. and how involved the children are. They seem very proud of ‘their church’.
- 7) Daily prayers/church assembly/presence of Vicar James on a regular basis/moral guidance in respecting each other

- 8) I was really impressed by the Harvest service. I am new to the school and was made to feel very welcome and all the children were very well behaved. I really like that the children have Christian guidance.
 - 9) Good balanced Christian curriculum with strong links with the local community and church.
 - 10) The values that underpin the teaching in the school are clearly part of everyday life in the classroom.
 - 11) Fair views, values and the children learning the morals of our church school. Being involved with the church on a monthly basis.
 - 12) We like the caring atmosphere.
 - 13) The regular church services (e.g. harvest festival) available.
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- 14) Enthusiasm, inclusiveness, traditional events, for example harvest, carol services. Rewards for good behaviour and hard work. Encouragement to always be kind and thoughtful.
 - 15) Although we are not a practicing religious family, we appreciate and welcome the principles and lessons the school teaches our daughter.
 - 16) I feel all of the children are valued as equals, my son has a good understanding of Christian faith and often comes home and tells me things so in a way he teaches our family as well.
 - 17) We like that the school visits the church and invites parents to come.
 - 18) All pupils are made to feel welcome. Good interaction with all years. Collective worship is a fun way for them to gather, celebrate achievement and learn about Christianity.
 - 19) It engages with the church, but is also inclusive for those with other beliefs.
 - 20) I like my child loves coming to school, the teachers are very approachable about any problems and they get dealt with. The children do great performances that parents get to watch.
 - 21) I like the fact that it is a very caring school. It values every pupil. The vicar plays a big part of the school on a regular basis.
 - 22) Collective worship/celebrations held in church. Visits from Vicar James.
 - 23) Doing all of the above very well. RE + pastoral care of the school are excellent.
 - 24) It allows the children to explore their spiritual side more thoroughly than a non-church school.
 - 25) Collective worship/sense of community.
 - 26) Friendly, inclusive ethos, sense of community and strong links with local church and with wider village community.
 - 27) Everyone is included.
 - 28) The good morals and values. A sense of depth with spirituality/religion not so much available at non-church schools.
 - 29) Teaching Christian values.
 - 30) Teaches my child good values.
 - 31) That it teaches the children good ethics and understanding of religion.
 - 32) Morals and values.
 - 33) Everyone is friendly, kind and respectful of each other. This is brought home by my child to share with his sister.
 - 34) We are not religious, so the fact that it is a church school is not important to us. However, the inclusive + caring nature of the school, teaching good morals + role models is excellent.
 - 35) Good values – warm and accessible to all.
 - 36) I like the caring nature of the school, and that the children learn some good values. I also like the fact that all Christian festivals etc. are celebrated and that the children are very involved. I enjoy church service and collective worship.
 - 37) Provides a consistent basis on which the school's values are formed and taken forward. The children have an awareness of multi faiths and cultures which emphasises the feeling of inclusion and respecting that we are all different. I enjoy the church services and the children interact well with Vicar James. Congratulations!

Further responses to 'what I would like to see improved about our school as a Church School':

- 1) I think there is already a good balance.
- 2) I am a happy with what is provided.
- 3) Can't think of any improvements that could be made. To us it is perfect.
- 4) Nothing.
- 5) Nothing.
- 6) Wider links to the local Christian community.
- 7) I know that other faiths are learned about, but it might be nice to extend this to give them a taster of the wide ranging faiths that exist in the world today (they may already do this as they get further up the school).
- 8) Nothing I can think of.
- 9) Nothing I think the balance is about right.
- 10) Not sure about the dance and drama stuff!
- 11) Nothing as yet!
- 12) Not sure as yet how the school stretches more able children and develops their resilience in preparation for both secondary school and the wider (less privileged) world.
- 13) A better understanding of the religious curriculum provided.
- 14) Greaterof information about what is being delivery to the children (in detail).
- 15) I am happy with the current curriculum which still maintains a focus on Christian worship and the messages that come through to the children.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and we will carry on providing the very best education for your children.

Kind regards



Jamie Dodson
Headteacher