



Sarisbury Church of England Junior School

Sarisbury Church Of England Junior School
 Allotment Road
 Sarisbury Green
 Southampton
 SO31 7AP

Diocese:	Portsmouth
Local authority:	Hampshire
Dates of inspection	26 March 2013
Date of last inspection:	13 June 2007
School's unique reference number:	116313
Headteacher:	Mr A Stockton
Inspector's name and number:	Mr C Pritchard [569]

School context

Sarisbury CE Junior school is an above average sized school with 351 pupils on roll. Pupils come from a variety of ethnic and social backgrounds. A significant proportion comes from relatively privileged economic backgrounds. The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals and with special educational needs are both below national averages. For over ten years there has been stability within the senior leadership roles of headteacher and vicar.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sarisbury Church of England Junior School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

This is an outstanding school because the core Christian values of Love, Hope and Forgiveness ensure every child is treated as unique and valued as a child of God. The quality of relationships between staff, children, governors and parents contribute to a shared responsibility where the community feels "together we achieve more." This enables children and adults to be successful and fulfilled people serving each other and the wider community.

Established strengths

- The visionary leadership of the headteacher and vicar in developing the school as a living example of a loving Christian family.
- The relentless drive to treat children and adults as individuals of infinite worth in the eyes of God.
- The empowering children and adults, that enables them to flourish as individuals.

Focus for development

- Conduct a comprehensive review of school documentation, paper and electronic, for opportunities to reference the distinctive Christian character and values of the school.
- Develop further pupil voice in relation to the expression of the Christian character within the school and to the communities both local and worldwide which the school serves.
- Review the signs and symbols used on the outside of the school for opportunities to reflect the Christian foundation of the school.

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

Sarisbury is outstanding as a church school because it is inclusive and invitational. Children and adults are respected as individuals whatever their faith background, yet the school maintains a deep-seated distinctive Christian character. One child, of another faith

background, said they felt welcome at the school. Another said, "If you don't believe in Jesus it's OK, it's a church school and that's about respect, friendship and equality." Parents, children and staff spoke of the sense of family within the school, how they are made to feel part of the family of Sarisbury Junior and that their well-being is of vital importance to the school community. One child said "I was a failure in my last school, but here I am successful." A parent of a child with significant special needs spoke of the loving acceptance of staff but more significantly how the children responded positively and supported their child as being one of the Sarisbury Junior School family.

The core Christian values of Love, Hope and Forgiveness are experienced every day by children and adults. One child said, "Our school is a good school because it is a Christian school." Another said, "Sometimes we fall out, but we don't make a massive deal of it because we are a forgiving school."

Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school and the leadership in particular. Information from surveys shows that 100% of parents would recommend the school to other parents. One parent explained how he had encouraged a friend to move house to be in the catchment area because he could not imagine a better school for his children.

The school, through discussion with pupils and the "pupil voice groups" reaches out into the community near and far, extending Christian love out to the world.

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

Collective worship and assemblies are used to promote the Christian character of the school. They build a sense of identity for the school as a whole by celebrating the successes of every child. The Monday assembly, known as Stars of the Week, celebrates the achievements of children from the previous week. Parents and grandparents attend this assembly to share the celebration with the whole school. This school wide reward system recognises all types of pupil achievement and contributes to the awarding of Going for Gold awards. An act of worship followed the observed Stars of the Week assembly providing an opportunity to consider the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. The title "Friday to Sunday – Face two Face" was given at the beginning of the assembly and provided a hook to engage the children. Using the lighting of a candle and the associated prayer the Headteacher enabled the school community to consider the meaning of the events and how they relate to our lives today. Invited to pray the school joined the head in reading a prayer displayed on screen. Worship and contemporary music were used at the start and end of the assembly / worship and the atmosphere within the hall was calm and respectful.

The Tuesday worship is led by the church and uses "Open the Book" Bible stories. The vicar and several parishioners arrive early and work with volunteer children from across the year groups to prepare the worship. The team have a four year cycle of stories and lead worship for at least 30 weeks in the year. The children are enthusiastic as recipients and volunteers, the worship ensures that the children hear and learn from Bible stories in an active and engaging environment. The drama concludes with a short summary and prayer. The stories link to the worship themes and support the school values.

The effect of these coordinated assemblies and worships, carefully planned and delivered, provide the school community with outstanding collective worship that is true to the Christian foundation of the school whilst remaining inclusive and invitational.

Pupils said "Stories in worship help me to be a better person." Behaviour in worship was exceptional, children arrive calmly and quietly, were attentive and their engagement was excellent.

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

Sarisbury Junior has a long established "Forging Links" group of staff and governors which regularly review the effectiveness of the school's Christian character of the school. The "Open The Book" team regularly support the school with Collective worship and this makes a significant contribution to the school being an outstanding church school.

The school has moved to a flatter leadership structure distributing leadership across the year teams. This enables the empowering of others and reflects the leadership style of the headteacher. Many staff have moved on to leadership positions in other schools, including church schools. The school has, and is continuing to evolve, the formal empowering of pupils through pupil voice. The children often spoke of "their school" and how they form part of the

leadership team. From Year 6 Buddies to the Eco Team, to the school council or the Bright Lights group.

The school uses two separate self evaluation forms for Ofsted and SIAS. The extensive SIAS SEF is thorough and detailed; it contains sufficient “areas for development” for the next five years.

There is a close working and highly effective relationship between school and the church community; and importantly, one that does not solely lie with the headteacher and vicar.

One child sums up how clearly school leaders communicate what it means to be part of the Sarisbury Junior Church School family, “We understand how things should be and we follow the rules.” At Sarisbury Junior, adults and children are guided to an understanding of a Christian way of life in which all are valued, can contribute and can succeed.

SIAS report March 2013, Sarisbury CE Junior, Sarisbury Green, Southampton, SO31 7AP