

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

The King's Church of England School

Regis Road
Tettenhall
Wolverhampton
WV6 8XG

Diocese: Lichfield

Local authority: Wolverhampton
Dates of inspection: March 10th & 11th 2010
Date of last inspection: January 29th & 30th 2007
School's unique reference number: 131547
Headteacher: John Allin
Inspector's name and number: Michael Asquith (317)

School context

As a secondary comprehensive school with a sixth form, the King's Church of England School is smaller than average. Significant numbers of students attend the school because of its distinctive Christian ethos, including a high proportion from other faiths. Students travel from across Wolverhampton to this over subscribed school. The school is a Visual Arts specialist college with additional specialist status in sports and science. The number of students eligible for free school meals is above average, and those with English as an additional language is nearly three times the national average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of The King's Church of England School as a Church of England school are outstanding

Shared Christian values underpin all that The King's School in Wolverhampton does and is. The celebration of the "multi-racial, multi-faith" culture of the school ensures that respect, inclusion & community cohesion are at the heart of all school activity, enabling students of all faiths, and no religious faith, to benefit from all that is offered at the school. The status of the school as an Arts College contributes very strongly to the school's creative, inspiring & challenging curriculum, which successfully enables most students to realise their God-given potential.

Established strengths

- The pervading Christian ethos, built upon Christian values, shared by all members of the school community and explicitly demonstrated in high standards of collective worship.
- The inclusive nature of this multi-faith, multi-cultural school in which everybody is treated equally and without discrimination.
- Well above average standards within Religious Education
- The impact & influence of the Chaplain, who is highly regarded by the senior leadership team, the staff, students, parents and governors.

Focus for development.

- Enable Religious Education to be taken up each year as an A level subject.
- Through appropriate dialogue address the need for better resourcing for the Religious Education department.

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

The King's School, Wolverhampton is a school where all students live and work in harmony, so that virtually all students achieve well. The multi-faith, multi-racial nature of the school which is so embedded within the school's distinctive character, strengthens the belief that every student is an individual created in the image of God. For example, students of non-Christian faiths sing alongside Christian students in the Gospel Choir & the "Leap of Faith"

dance troop includes girls of all faiths. The quiet and still atmosphere within the faith centre enables students to reflect and bring their concerns to God. The school, through the Faith Centre, offers Muslim students and their families the opportunity to keep Ramadan in an appropriate manner. Students are very aware of the importance of looking out for each other, and for the staff, and this is reciprocated within the school. Many departments actively contribute to the cross-curricular days. The annual celebration, 'Christ the King' day, encourages citizenship and responsibility. Further opportunities to build on citizenship are offered through the Arts and Sports Councils and the roles of Form Captains. The school makes exceptionally strong links between its Christian distinctiveness and its specialisms of Art and Sport with Science. For example, bright eye catching banners, such as those based on the "I am" sayings of Jesus, emphasise & value Christian belief. Each room has a cross on the wall, dark on one side and light on the other, reminding students that "*through the cross each of us are given a second chance.*" The school works to support the whole family, not just the student, both through prayer and practical support. The good racial relations within the local community emanate from the school, which sees its ministry as living out a stable and cohesive society, built on the foundation of offering Christian hospitality & service. The Chaplain is respected and valued. She embodies a strong Christian presence within the school, evidenced in quality collective worship, in her contribution to Religious Education lessons and in the high level of participation by all students in the school Eucharists. Pastoral care is outstanding, as is the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of all students.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Excellent worship opportunities are offered by the school, for all members of its community. Students attend a 'year' collective worship each week and have the opportunity of contributing to reflections and "Thought for the Day" in their registration groups for the remainder of the week. Staff enjoy twice weekly reflections before school, and staff meetings begin with prayers, as do those of the governing body. There are regular celebrations of the Eucharist, both for individual year groups within the school, and on staff training days. Students take full advantage of the worship opportunities. They are inspired & affirmed by collective worship & enjoy making contributions to the weekly theme. They would welcome increased opportunities to assist in the evaluation of worship, so as to ensure its continued high quality. The Chaplain makes a significant impact upon the collective worship, as do members of the King's Clergy Group, who regularly take worship and support the school in other ways. Collective worship makes an outstanding contribution to the spiritual development of all the students. Those of faith feel that they are valued and that the school makes appropriate provision for them. For example, senior students often lead the Ramadan prayers for Muslim students at the school.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Students make exceptional progress in Religious Education because the subject is managed very well, ensuring appropriate time allocated within the school timetable for the most part [which over key stages 3 and 4 equals 5% of curriculum time for "core RE") and because all lessons are taught by specialist RE teachers. Standards are well above average both when compared to other subjects at the school and to national levels. All students have the opportunity to study for either a short course or full GCSE exam, and Religious Education is offered as an Advanced (or AS) level subject as part of the school's enrichment programme. Currently the year 13 group are able to assimilate different levels of arguments, theistic, historic, scientific and philosophical, and form their own opinions. In a year 11 lesson students were role playing to explore issues of judgement very successfully. All lessons observed were at least good with the majority being outstanding. Teachers enable students to progress through constructive comments in their marking and through focussed work with smaller groups of students within a class, stretching students to achieve their potential. Where classes are studying a different religion, the teacher asks for contributions from the class of those who follow that faith, thereby enabling all students to know that their faith is important, allowing them to positively contribute to the lessons. Currently beyond what is created by the teaching staff there are few new resources available at the school for the teaching of RE which was an issue at the last inspection. The timetabling of year 10 and 11 option GCSE Religious Education within just one afternoon a week means that students may, over the course of two years, have significantly less time devoted to the subject than if the lessons were spread through the week. Students enjoy Religious Education lessons. The

Chaplain assists in the teaching of certain areas. Religious Education makes an outstanding contribution to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. Through enrichment days all students in years 12 and 13 are able to study the impact of religion upon their lives.

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

The strong vision, leadership & commitment of the headteacher, supported so ably by the governors & senior leaders, ensures that Christian values underpin the school and are indeed 'its heartbeat.' These values, such as tolerance, forgiveness, reconciliation, service, generosity and hospitality are all firmly rooted in and acknowledged as Biblical values. The multi-racial, multi-faith nature of the school prohibits racism and all members of the school community feel valued & unique. The Christian values of the school are affirmed by the governing body and all members of the school community positively contribute to them. The Chaplain trains all staff in the delivery and content of collective worship which has resulted in every member of staff feeling empowered to deliver this spiritual activity. There are strong partnerships between the school and the local churches. Professional development of staff is important and the school empowers and equips them to progress within their careers, though many staff choose to remain at the school because of its unique and strong Christian character and its service to the community. Governors are accurate in their evaluation of the school as a church school. The importance of forgiveness, offering students a second chance, has resulted in fewer exclusions from the school, and yet standards of behaviour are very good and minor lapses dealt with positively within this framework of forgiveness. Parents see the strong Christian ethos as being a significant factor in the choice of school for their child. Despite being outstanding, the school is not complacent, & looks for ways to extend its influence & Christian character. There are significant opportunities to develop, through the facilities offered within the new build and the addition of a special school on site. No doubt this outstanding school will take hold of these opportunities and relish the challenges they afford.