



Twyford Church of England High School



Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Inspection Report

School address Twyford Crescent
Acton
London
W3 9PP

Headteacher Alice Hudson

Type of School Secondary
Status Academy
Unique Reference Number 137546
Diocese London
Local Authority Ealing
Date of last inspection May 2007

Inspection date 17-18 May 2012
National Society Inspector John Ross (NS 476)

The Education Act 2005 (Section 48) requires the governing body or foundation governors of Church of England Schools to appoint a person to undertake the inspection of denominational education and collective worship in schools with a religious character.

School context

Twyford is a large Church of England school. Previously voluntary aided, it has recently become an academy. It has Music College and Language College status. Since the last inspection there has been substantial building and refurbishment work, including the provision of a new chapel. A well-above-average proportion of students are from ethnic minority backgrounds. In partnership with the London Diocesan Board for Schools, Twyford is sponsoring a new faith school due to open in September 2013.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Twyford as a Church of England school are outstanding

Twyford is an outstanding Church school. Everyone is made to feel special and its students feel secure and happy there. Students, staff, parents and governors recognise that everyone has God-given gifts which are encouraged and celebrated within a culture of achievement and success. Christian values as exemplified in the gospels underpin everything the school does and there is a daily living out of those Christian values.

Established strengths

- A very strong Christian ethos which permeates this cohesive community where students of all backgrounds and faiths work peacefully together and care for one another
- The passionate and visionary Christian leadership provided by the headteacher, chaplain, senior staff and governing body
- The outstanding improvement in Religious Education since the last inspection
- The positive impact of Music College status on the Christian character of the school

Focus for development

- Transfer the outstanding Church school distinctiveness and effectiveness to create a faith environment in the new school, while maintaining excellence at Twyford

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

The school's motto, 'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full,' (John 10 v10) articulates the ethos of the school and encompasses its core values. This is the view of its students who spoke with confidence of living life to the full, enjoying what they do and doing their best, within a Christian context. In the words of a parent, 'It's cool to be Christian.' All groups of students make outstanding progress as they progress through the school. There is a strong culture of celebrating everyone's talents, for example through performance in music or participation in sport. Pastoral care is particularly strong, and is provided through form tutors, year heads, the house system, the chaplaincy and student mentors. Significantly, students take great care in looking after one another, mindful of the commandment 'Love one another.' Christian values are important: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control all appear within the prospectus and can be seen to be played out in school's daily life. The school takes special care of the most vulnerable. Those most at risk of exclusion receive additional support and the principle of Christian redemption is built into the system of rewards and sanctions, exemplifying forgiveness. One parent spoke of an 'assertive kindness' where students who have got into difficulty are helped to get back on track.

The school shows tremendous cohesion within its diverse community, whose members are drawn from a wide range of ethnic, social and religious backgrounds. There are excellent relationships between different faith and ethnic groups. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding with excellent opportunities provided through the curriculum and an exceptional extra-curricular programme with high participation rates. Students make an outstanding contribution to the local and global community and charitable fundraising is very strong. There is a link with a school in Mozambique and there are exchange visits and numerous overseas trips. Students of all ages benefit from the many student leadership opportunities. Student voice is strong. Students have high career aspirations and clear plans on how to achieve them, many going on to university.

Induction is excellent. Those who have transferred in from other institutions to the open sixth form commented on how welcome they are made at Twyford and some take up student leadership roles such as house captain. The new chapel is set in a central position and is a focus of Christian distinctiveness. Used daily, it is an attractive space containing Christian symbols including artwork and artefacts made by students and with Christian mosaics on its outer walls. Muslim students appreciate having their own prayer room.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective Worship plays a pivotal role in the life of the school and in students' spiritual development. Students are very positive about worship and they are very actively involved in its planning, delivery and evaluation. They strongly influence the development of worship within school through the Worship and Spirituality Council. There are further opportunities for student-led worship through the chaplaincy. Worship is distinctively Christian, with explicit elements of Anglican worship, representing the full spectrum of the Anglican tradition. There are regular Eucharists for staff and students. A Year 8 Eucharist to celebrate Ascension Day showed wide student participation and leadership within the music, readings and prayers. There was a highly respectful atmosphere and most students joined in the responses. A choir and music group led singing with confidence although congregational singing was less confident. Most received the sacrament or a blessing and the service memorably concluded outdoors with fireworks to celebrate the Ascension.

Assemblies start with corporate responses and end with prayer, led by students. 'It sticks in your mind,' and 'It's thought provoking,' commented students enthusiastically. Silence is used effectively. Scripture readings are used in every assembly, always read by a student. Major Christian festivals are celebrated, also festivals of non-Christian faiths are noted. All assemblies begin with live music, provided by the students. 'It sets the mood,' said one. The Music College status has had a major impact on church school distinctiveness, with various groups formed to lead the music for each year group. These groups are fully inclusive and this performance culture celebrates students' talents, fostering self-esteem and contributing significantly to the Christian ethos. The Gospel choir, ably trained by a local church minister, has performed at St Paul's Cathedral and at the Mayor of London's Carol Service. No student is withdrawn from Collective Worship. Students of non-Christian faiths are encouraged to participate in worship as far as they feel comfortable, without pressure. The Twyford Fellowship Group (TFG) meets informally and is one example of a number of opportunities the school presents for students to explore their faith.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

This flagship department has made outstanding progress since the last inspection. It consists of a highly qualified and dedicated team of specialists. An enthusiastic head of department who is passionate about the subject and its students leads it most ably. Standards are high at GCSE and A-level and have been maintained or improved over the last three years. Student attainment exceeds national expectations and compares favourably with other subjects in the school which themselves achieve a high standard. Religious Education GCSE is taken by all students at the end of Year 10, one year in advance of other subjects. In 2011 93% achieved A*-C, 52% achieving A*-A. In Year 11, students follow 'Ethics Academy,' an innovative and exciting programme which gives the opportunity to apply the skills learnt from religion. At A-level in 2011 there was 100% pass rate, 93% achieving A-C. Numbers studying at A-level are increasing, from nine examined in 2011 to 24 in 2012, an indication of the rapidly growing popularity of the subject.

Teaching is outstanding and a full range of teaching and learning strategies are used across all age groups. These include projects, debating, crime scene investigation, Dragon's Den, reflection, peer assessment, self-assessment, teacher and student led activity, use of technology and use of the Learning Resources Centre. There are excellent opportunities for students to visit a range of places of worship or to encounter visitors from other faiths. Teaching displays confidence and high expectations. Students are very positive towards the subject, enjoying the range of activities and high quality debates. Their work displays imagination and creativity. They say their teachers help them understand, there is plenty of participation, and one student described the lessons as 'intriguing.' They make excellent progress at all levels. The department receives strong support from the school's senior leadership. The department is well resourced, with good time allocation for the subject. New classrooms and attractive displays enable students to take pride in their work.

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

The headteacher, senior leadership team and governing body have a clear vision regarding the Christian character of the school. Since the last inspection the school has appointed a full-time chaplain to the leadership team, a bold and decisive move. The work of the chaplain has been transformational in building the Christian ethos and sharing the Christian story within the school. The chaplain has a major influence across the school and he has established excellent relationships within it and beyond. The chaplaincy has its own budget, an indication of its important status. All issues from the previous inspection have been successfully addressed and significant further progress has been made. Self-evaluation is accurate and very thorough. Development planning as a Church school is strong. Governors are proactive in monitoring the school's effectiveness as a Church school and holding its leaders to account. The school enjoys excellent relationships with parents and carers, who are very positive. They like the school because it is 'unequivocally Christian.' They recognise its Christian ethos is totally embedded, not an 'add-on.' One commented, 'It's fabulous, we are very fortunate.' It is the school of choice for some Muslims who choose a Christian school for its moral compass.

The school's prospectus and the school's open evening make a clear statement on the religious foundation and how this influences practice. Governors' meetings and senior leadership team meetings always include prayer. There are regular opportunities for staff to worship together and pray. There are strong links with local churches, both Anglican and other denominations. Relationships with the Diocese of London are close through the London Diocesan Board for Schools and the area deans, archdeacon and bishops. There is a close and continuing relationship with St Paul's Cathedral and the diocesan bishop. There are strong links through the chaplain to leaders of other denominations and non-Christian faiths. The school is outstanding at developing future leaders and provides many opportunities for its staff to develop and grow. The opening of a new Church school in 2013, with different admissions criteria, provides a unique opportunity for Twyford to transfer the very best practice in Church school distinctiveness and effectiveness while maintaining excellence itself. There is every indication it will rise successfully to this challenge and capacity for further improvement at Twyford remains outstanding.

Twyford Church of England High School SIAS report.



Judgement Recording Form (NSJRF)



Name of School: Twyford Church of England High School
Twyford Crescent, Acton, London, W3 9PP

Date of inspection: 17-18 May 2012

Type of Church school: Academy

Phase of education: Secondary

Number of pupils: 1458

URN Number: 137546

NS Inspector's Number: 476

Rating 1-4

How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?	1
How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?	1
What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?	1
How effective is the religious education?	1
How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?	1
The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship	Yes
The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education *	Yes

* *Voluntary Aided Schools*