CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Methodist Church

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

The Grey Coat Hospital

Greycoat Place
London
SW1P 2DY

Diocese: London

Local authority: Westminster

Dates of inspection: 22nd and 23rd September 2014

Date of last inspection: 14th May 2009

School's unique reference number: 101151

Headteacher: Siân Maddrell

Inspector's name and number: Miss Elizabeth Cross

Additional Quality Assurance Inspector: Mr Nick McKemey 280

School context

The Grey Coat Hospital was founded in 1698. It has been a day school for girls since 1874 and recently converted to an academy in July 2012. The Grey Coat Hospital is oversubscribed and has a diverse cohort of students from a range of faith backgrounds. There are 1043 students on roll from age 11-18. A total of 282 students make up the mixed sixth from, 34 of these are boys. 28% of students are eligible for free school meals, 66% of pupils are from minority ethnic groups and 25% of students are believed to not have English as their first language.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Grey Coat Hospital as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Explicit Christian values permeate the whole school community. They are central to the students' excellent relationships and behaviour.
- Governors hold leaders of the school to account and have an outstanding grasp on the effectiveness of the school as a church school and the school's distinctly Christian vision.
- Leadership of the school is excellent providing a clear direction and purpose based upon strong Christian values.
- The quality of Religious Education is outstanding and provides a strong foundation for future learning.

Areas to improve

- Monitor and evaluate collective worship more efficiently so that it provides effective insight into how worship influences the life of every member of the school community and leads into strategic developmental planning and improvement

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

Christian values are made explicit at The Grey Coat Hospital. They are deeply embedded into the life of the school through the use of themes. The themes are not in themselves distinctly Christian in their nature. They are however used by every member of the school community and very effectively link to daily Christian worship. Every year Grey Coat Hospital celebrates 'Theme Day' which has a significant impact upon the lives of students and the day to day running of the school. All members of the school community can articulate how the theme links to their area of expertise and consequently how it links to being a good Christian in the 21st Century. This further supports the schools aim to 'enable students to take charge of their learning, make decisions based on Christian values, live in the world as independent women and meet the challenges of the twenty-first century'. The school's Christian character and values have a significant impact upon students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. Every year the school invites a guest speaker to launch 'Theme Day'. Students are inspired by this and expressed their thoughts and views on how one individual can make a difference. The Christian values of the school ensure outstanding achievement. Examination results are significantly above the national average and 55 students out of 109 secured places at Russell Group Universities. The behaviour of learners at The Grey Coat Hospital is at a very high standard. The quality of relationships between members of the school community is always attributed to the Christian faith. Exclusion rates are extremely low. Students at risk of exclusion have a personalised plan which links to the school's Christian character and enables every student to achieve their full potential. Christian values shape outstanding attendance. Last year The Grey Coat Hospital was third in the country and first in the South East for attendance. This is because learners regard their school as a 'fellowship'. Many said their school was like a 'family' and words like 'trust', 'just' and 'mature' were used by learners to describe the behaviour at The Grey Coat Hospital. Learners are able to link their behaviour and relationships in school with Biblical teachings and the example of the life of Jesus. Furthermore, parents shared their thoughts that Grey Coat Hospital is an inclusive school that offers excellent all round support. Religious education plays a salient role in determining the Christian character of the school. Students thoroughly enjoy their learning and study a diverse curriculum covering a breadth and depth of philosophical questions which are underpinned by a study of Christianity on a local, national and global level.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is a highly valued and central part of school life. It takes place at the beginning of every day enabling students to start the day in calm and reflective frame of mind. Collective worship has a significant impact upon students. Students said they often discussed the morning's worship later that day and at home with parents. One student said collective worship often 'pops' back into her head when she is faced with a dilemma. The school encourages the use of prayer every day. As a result students understand the power of personal prayer and they indicate this through the use of their form group 'Prayer Book'. Every morning students contribute to prayer and some tutor groups use an act of silence to enable personal reflection. There are some inconsistencies in the impact of tutor group worship but this is something the school has the capacity to address. Learners are able to identify distinctive Christian traditions in worship especially Anglican practice. They regularly say the Lord's Prayer together and sing hymns. The school provides a weekly Eucharist and confirmation classes. There is, therefore, a strong sense of a consistent Christian narrative throughout the school year, which culminates in the annual Westminster Abbey Service. Students expressed pride at being able to worship at Westminster Abbey and described themselves as 'very lucky'. Worship routinely focuses on the person of Jesus. Students are able to talk about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the impact this has on their behaviour. One sixth form student described her behaviour as 'service to the school' because Jesus served others in the Bible.

The school's worship exudes a strong sense of belonging and inclusivity. There is a chapel on both sites that is always open for students to use. The Christian Union and the prayer group regularly meet in the school chapel. Both of these initiatives are led by students; highlighting the outstanding effect collective worship has on their lives. A range of leaders and representatives in the school lead worship through different formats. Students enjoy a rich variety of experiences of collective worship. Students frequently contribute to collective worship and lead worship themselves in form time. The school has numerous visiting speakers on a regular basis and there is an active Christian Union as well as 'worship reps' in every form group. Students are frequently inspired by collective worship. It is always inclusive. Collective worship has a positive impact upon relationships and peer interactions in school life. Students spoke about their favourite assembly when the Chaplain washed students' feet and linked this to 'service' and the importance of serving your community. They were able to connect worship at school to issues on the news both locally and nationally and it was clear to see that worship is central to the school community when experiencing a tragedy. Regular monitoring and evaluation of collective worship happens through the sharing of good practice. There is a strong sense of trust and teamwork between the staff but feedback on the impact of collective worship in each year group is not recorded systematically.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Students are making significant progress in Religious Education. Very high attainment and progress are in line with or better than most subjects on the curriculum. Students develop a breadth and depth of understanding of Christianity alongside a broad range of religious beliefs. The gap between levels of progress for disadvantaged students and those who are not disadvantaged is considerably narrower than for the whole school. Students in Year 9 were making outstanding progress in relation to their starting points. The majority of teaching observed was outstanding and it was never less than consistently good. The current Head of Department regularly monitors the department with lesson observations, learning walks and moderation of marking. The teachers in the department utilise questioning skills very effectively and students always expect to think deeply during their Religious Studies lessons. The Religious Studies curriculum is rich and varied enabling students to acquire thorough knowledge of all major world faiths especially Christianity. Particular learning programmes like 'How do we know?' and 'Why believe?' have promoted Religious Studies in the school and enabled the subject to have a very high profile. The Year 9 module entitled 'Interfaith Dialogue' enables students to attend a 'Faith Forum' and there is also a sixth form Religious Studies conference that is very well attended. These events inspire students to ask philosophical questions and explore the meaning and purpose of life. The Head of Department is a lead practitioner and has the highest level of subject expertise. Members of the Religious Education department have excellent subject knowledge and are specialists in their fields. This enables students to maximise on ambitious staff expectations and make rapid and sustained progress in Religious Education.

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

The Trustees, Board of Governors and the Senior Leadership Team clearly express the importance of the school's Christian character. It is very clear that the explicit Christian vision is embodied and shared by all stakeholders. The Governors are very clear about why the school converted to an academy in 2012 and it has strengthened the school's ownership and control of an effective Christian vision. The foundation trust was described as the 'guardian of the Christian ethos' of the school. There are very strong links between the foundation, Westminster Abbey and the school. Furthermore, the school Governors attend school events throughout the year and when interviewing new staff, ask specifically about their ability to share in and support the collective Christian vision. All leaders and managers at The Grey Coat Hospital have a thorough understanding of the school's performance as a church school. All leaders contribute and are involved in writing a Self-Evaluation. This then facilitates a

development plan, which is aligned with the school's mission statement. The senior leadership team also provide a comprehensive termly report to Governors outlining development and planning. Parents, the local church, the diocese and the wider community contribute fully to the school. The 'Parents Guild' organise the Christmas Carol Service and students are confirmed every year in a joint service with Westminster City School and Westminster School. One parent commented, 'The love of God is practised here' and expressed pride in the support and consistency the school provides. Charity work is embedded into the school calendar with an annual 'Charity Week' for each year group. The Trustees of the school help finance sixth form students through 'The Adventure Trust'. This enables students to work on charity projects abroad. For example, students travel to countries in Africa to help with Education and Health Projects thus deepening their social, moral and cultural development. Major school events are well attended by parents. This creates a shared sense of belonging and community for all. Leaders of the school ensure that every aspect of school life is informed by distinctive Christian characteristics that make The Grey Coat Hospital an outstandingly inclusive Christian 'family'.