

Our last Ofsted and Church Inspections

As Townsend is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School we were inspected twice! The two inspections were carried out under Sections 5 and 48 of the Education Act. Ofsted sent inspectors and so did the Church of England.

You will be thrilled to know that absolutely everything inspected was graded at or above the national average. Inspectors use the word 'satisfactory' or Grade 3 to describe things that are assessed at the national average. Satisfactory is not a very exciting word but it does mean that if something is graded as satisfactory or Grade 3 that Townsend is performing not only at the national average but also the same as other similar schools. This should be pleasing for parents and carers to hear. **Even more pleasing is the fact that nothing inspected was graded as inadequate! In fact between the two inspections and including the 6th Form grades – we were awarded 10 outstanding (Grade 1) grades and 24 good (Grade 2) grades on top of 10 satisfactory grades.**

We hope that you enjoy reading the summaries below. Overall, they make good reading and are a very positive affirmation of our core values. It is certainly pleasing to know that nothing was graded as inadequate and that everything we do is at least as good as other similar schools and in 34 grades out of 44 grades even better.

Judgement Summary

Section 5 Ofsted Inspection

A grade summary for parents/carers.

The full inspection reports can be read on the government and Church of England websites

Grade 1 - Outstanding

How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being? Main school grade.	1
How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners? Main school grade.	1
How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners? Sixth Form grade.	1
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	1
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	1
The attendance of learners	1
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	1

<u>OFSTED</u>
<u>Inspection</u>
8
Outstanding
grades

Grade 2 - Good

How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners? Sixth Form grade.	2
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being? Sixth Form grade.	2
The capacity to make any necessary improvements. Main school grade.	2
The capacity to make any necessary improvements. Sixth Form grade.	2
How well do learners achieve? Sixth Form grade.	2
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners. Sixth Form grade.	2
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	2
How well learners enjoy their education	2
The behaviour of learners	2
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	2
How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of learners' needs? Sixth Form grade.	2
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners? Main school grade.	2
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners? Sixth Form grade.	2
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported? Main school grade.	2
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported? Sixth Form grade.	2
How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners? Sixth Form grade	2
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	2
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation. Sixth Form grade.	2
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	2
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	2

OFSTED
Inspection

20
Good
grades

Grade 3 - Satisfactory

How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners? Main school grade.	3
How well do learners achieve? Main school grade.	3
The standards reached by learners. Main school grade.	3
The standards reached by learners. Sixth Form grade.	3
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	3
How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of learners' needs? Main school grade.	3
How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners? Main school grade.	3
How effectively leaders and managers use challenging targets to raise standards	3
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation. Main school grade.	3
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	3

OFSTED
Inspection

10
Satisfactory
grades

Grade 4 - Inadequate

NO JUDGEMENTS WERE INADEQUATE	--
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OFSTED
Inspection

0
Inadequate
grades

General Judgements

Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes
Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements?	Yes
Does this school require special measures?	No
Does this school require a notice to improve?	No

Section 48 Church of England Diocesan Inspection

Meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character	1
The potential of the staff to promote further the Christian vision for the school	1
The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Townsend Secondary as a Church of England school	2 / 1
The effectiveness of religious education	2
The impact of collective worship on the school community	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school	2

<u>Church Inspection</u>
2
Outstanding grades
1
Good/ Outstanding grade
3
Good grades
0
Inadequate grades

Quotes from the Ofsted inspection report

Overall effectiveness of the school

- Townsend Church of England School has some significant strengths and provides a satisfactory standard of education for pupils aged 11 to 16.
- Provision for students in the sixth form is good.
- The school's approach to inclusion is outstanding, particularly around the promotion of its core Christian values, which lie at the heart of the school's work. Consequently, the development of pupils' spiritual, social and moral awareness and their general well-being are also exceptionally strong.
- The school is held in high regard by the community and by parents, who are overwhelmingly supportive.

- One parent reflected the views of many by saying 'I have been very impressed by the wonderful spirit this school has and the holistic approach to developing each child.'
- Standards are satisfactory overall.
- Overall, most pupils make progress at the same rates as their peers in other schools.
- Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are exceptionally well supported and make good progress.
- High attendance and good behaviour reflect pupils' enjoyment of school.
- A well-considered curriculum and high levels of pastoral support provided by all staff greatly enhance pupils' educational experience.
- The headteacher, along with his senior management team and the governing body, are highly successful in driving forward the school's philosophy of celebrating diversity.
- Partnership working with external agencies and other educational providers is excellent, successfully enabling the school to break down the barriers to education faced by many pupils.

Effectiveness of the sixth form

- Sixth form provision is good.
- Significant changes in the management of the sixth form have led to increased evaluation of student progress and of teaching and learning. As a result of the coordinated approach to mentoring during this academic year, student progress is being closely monitored and this is having a good effect on students' desire to remain in education and achieve well.
- Sixth form students make good role models for younger pupils.
- Teachers develop students' independent learning well and most students are actively involved in their own learning.
- Students can choose from a wide range of academic advanced level courses and a small but developing range of vocational options. They speak highly of the strong pastoral support they receive.

Achievement and standards

- Achievements and standards are satisfactory.
- Most pupils enter the school with above average levels of attainment and most make progress in line with expectations.
- The proportion of pupils gaining a grade C or higher in mathematics was above average.
- Pupils with additional support needs and in some cases complex learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported exceptionally well, achieving at or above their target grades, and are making good progress.

Personal development and well-being

- The personal development of the pupils is outstanding. They enjoy coming to school, which is reflected in their high levels of attendance.
- Behaviour overall is good, both in lessons and around the school.
- Exclusions are infrequent, and are carefully managed to assist pupils successfully to reintegrate into the life of the school.
- Pupils feel safe and cared for.
- Relationships overall are very positive and pupils socialise well with each other and with staff.
- One student commented, "Form tutors are amazing with us."
- Incidents of bullying are rare, and where they occur, are dealt with effectively through the school's very thorough pastoral system.
- All pupils are encouraged to take regular exercise and eat healthily.
- Pupils make an outstanding contribution to the community through the school's excellent support programmes, their many charitable activities, and their confidence to take responsibility and use their own initiative.
- Their (*students*) spiritual development overall is outstanding as a result of the school's very strong focus on high moral, social and cultural values.
- Pupils develop good skills to assist their future economic well-being.
- Through the school council pupils feel strongly that they are listened to and that their suggestions are implemented where possible.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

- Teaching and learning are satisfactory, with some good and outstanding class and individual teaching.
- Teachers demonstrate good knowledge of their subjects.
- The features of many lessons are the good relationships between staff and pupils, the effective use of support staff and the inclusion of topical issues for discussion.

Curriculum and other activities

- Curriculum provision is good, and meets the needs of pupils.
- The curriculum reflects the school's ethos of integration and equal opportunities.
- The Key Stage 3 curriculum is good, broad and balanced.

- Citizenship features in 'Learning for Life' lessons and the 'Breakthrough to Literacy' programme effectively supports pupils with educational needs.
- The Key Stage 4 curriculum is good.
- Pupils can choose from a wide range of GCSE courses.
- The way that the school creates the timetable enables the maximum number of student choices to be met.
- The range of learning opportunities for pupils is increased by some taking GCSE examinations early or studying vocational courses in school or at Oaklands College.
- Hearing impaired pupils and those with other learning needs are well integrated and supported.
- There is provision to extend learning opportunities for gifted and talented pupils across the school and a range of activities is offered such as visits to places of interest, visiting speakers and weekends away.
- Pupils take very good advantage of the wide range of extra-curricular provision, especially in the outstanding opportunities for sport and physical activity which are highly valued by pupils.

Care, guidance and support

- The quality of care, guidance and support is good.
- Strong pastoral support, which results in pupils feeling safe, provides a caring environment in which pupils of all ages flourish.
- The senior management team, year heads, form tutors, mentors and learning support assistants provide a wide-ranging support network across the school.
- The ways in which the school identifies pupils who may be vulnerable or at risk are thorough.
- Support for pupils with emotional or behavioural difficulties is outstanding.
- The school has extensive links with external agencies to meet pupils' needs.
- Child protection procedures are securely in place and safeguarding arrangements meet government requirements.

Leadership and management

- Leadership and management are satisfactory.
- The headteacher provides clear direction and his supportive leadership is held in high esteem by pupils, parents and staff.
- Professional development opportunities are used well to develop middle leadership within the school.
- Middle leaders are using an increasing range of strategies to monitor improvement.
- The committed and experienced governing body provides the school with good support.
- Overall, the school provides satisfactory value for money.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Townsend is a Church of England School but warmly welcomes applications from people of all religions and cultures - and those of no religion.

The number of places available in Year 7 for the academic year 2009/2010 is 150. The total number of applications made by using the Hertfordshire County Council application form by the closing date last year was 356.

As far as was possible everything printed in our colour brochure and in this supplement was checked for accuracy at the time of printing. However, a school changes and develops over a period of time. The school therefore reserves the right to change any item without notice and parents/carers are advised to check any facts that they consider materially important, before accepting a place at Townsend.

Bus routes and bus numbers can vary from year to year.

Further information and a colour copy of the most recent edition of the full Hertfordshire public bus map can be obtained by telephoning the Hertfordshire Traveline 0871 200 2233.

A space for your own notes: