



OXFORD DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

LEWKNOR C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

SELF-EVALUATION

School Context

2022-2023

Motto

Building strong foundations for a happy and successful life.

Biblical Text (The parable of the two builders)

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Vision

Like the wise man who built his house on rock, we seek God’s wisdom to enable us to nurture our school community so that all can flourish and achieve their best in every aspect of school life.

Core values

Wisdom, integrity, friendship, resilience





Lewknor Church of England Primary School

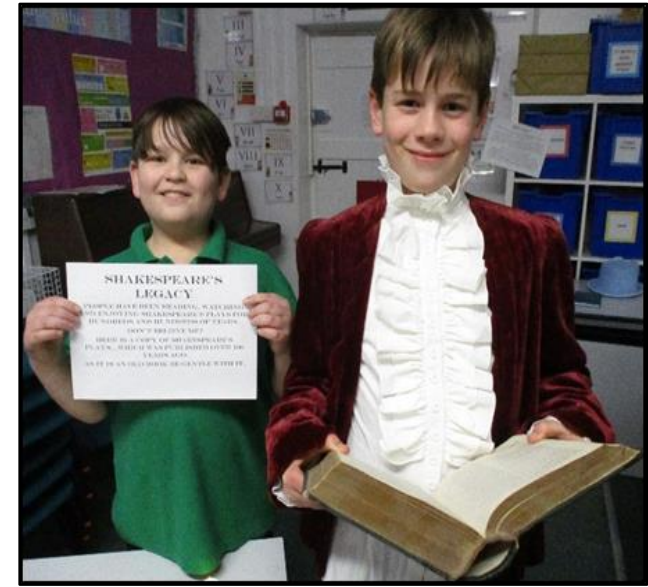
SEF 2022-2023











Lewknor Church of England Primary School

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The School's Context

Lewknor Church of England Primary School is a small school in a rural location. The building is listed as Grade II and was originally built in 1836. It is one of the last in Britain with thatched roofs. At the end of the summer term 2023 there were 76 pupils on roll - 36 were boys (47%) and 40 were girls (53%).

The catchment area for the school is very small consisting mainly of Lewknor and the surrounding villages of Postcombe, Adwell and South Weston. In 2022-23 only 23 children (30%) lived in our catchment. The remaining 53 children (70%) came from out of catchment – Chinnor (13), Watlington (10), Stokenchurch (7), Thame (5), Sydenham (3), Aston Rowant (3), Bourne End (2), Princes Risborough (2), Great Haseley (2), Tiddington (2) and one child each from Chalgrove, Wallingford, Kingston Blount, and Newington.

Numbers in the four classes were: Upper Juniors (Years 5 and 6 with 20 pupils); Lower Juniors (Years 3 and 4, 21 pupils); Infants (Years 1 and 2, 24 pupils) and Reception (11 pupils). The average class size is 19 pupils.

There has been extensive work completed to the premises over recent years. For example, the main school house was rewired over the summer in 2021 with new lighting and new heating installed later that year. The playground has been resurfaced. Over the summer holidays in 2023, a new floor was laid in the Upper Juniors class, a new roof was built on the disabled toilet block, and repairs were completed to all wooden window frames and doors in the old school building. A new climbing frame with two slides was erected on the playing field in March 2023 and a trim trail was laid, which is used by the children for their daily mile run.

For the first time in 10 years we will have a waiting list for children hoping to secure a place in the reception class in September 2023. The admission limit has been 15 in Reception, though in September 2023 we will have 16 children starting school. I will be able to accommodate more children because of our mixed-age classes and the fact that pupil numbers are currently low in Year 1.

The school has no nursery provision but the village has a pre-school called Krakatoa. The pre-school was in danger of closing after the May half-term in 2023 because a member of the Krakatoa staff left, leaving only one person qualified to look after the children. Lewknor Primary invited the children and staff to use its Reception classroom, playground and resources to prevent the pre-school from closing. Since then new members of staff have been recruited for the pre-school and it is our aim to strengthen links between school and pre-school in this coming year. Of the 16 children who will be starting in the Reception class in September, four came from Krakatoa while the remaining children attended pre-schools closer to where their parents live and work.

Attainment on entry to the Reception class varies from year to year. In September 2022, three of the 11 children (27%) were working either significantly below or below the expected level in reading, writing or maths. However, by the end of the year, two of these children had made excellent progress and had reached a good level of development in all areas. Attainment throughout the school has been significantly above national averages for the past nine years. Children with special educational needs and those entitled to pupil premium funding achieve especially well.

The school serves pupils from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. At the end of the 2022-23 school year there were 7 pupil premium children (approx.9%). There were 10 children (13%) with special educational needs. One child has an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. All children with special educational

needs receive additional support in subjects where they fall below national expectations for their age. The pupils are predominantly from white British families (89%). Eight pupils (11%) are from a minority ethnic background including two Ukrainian girls, who joined us in the summer of 2022, and one girl from India, who joined school after the Easter holidays in 2023.

In 2022-23 we had three full-time and two part-time teachers. Mrs Lomas returned from maternity leave and taught the Reception class three days a week along with Miss Hickman, who taught two days. Miss Hickman also taught French from the reception class upwards. Mrs Hopkins was the Infants (Years 1 and 2) teacher, Mrs Wakefield continued in Lower Juniors (Years 3 and 4) and Mrs Read taught the Upper Juniors (Years 5 and 6). There were three full-time and four part-time teaching assistants. One full-time teaching assistant also worked as a caretaker. The staff also includes a finance officer and an office administrator. The Headteacher, Deborah Cole, has been in post since September 2014. She had previously worked as an assistant headteacher for four years at another Oxfordshire primary school. The school forms a partnership with seven other schools in the Watlington area.

Church and school lie at the core of community life. School makes use of the church for collective worship, concerts and productions, celebration assemblies, and local residents have always been invited to all school events. School has a close relationship with our vicar Peter Waterson, who attends many school events. Peter also takes classes at school which cover all sorts of spiritual and philosophical questions that make our children reflect deeply. This in turn helps our children become Agents of Change with a realisation that small acts of kindness can have a big impact on others, in particular, the vulnerable.

Parents talk about the school community as a family. They are hugely supportive and very positive – they say they appreciate all that we do for their children. Parents volunteer to help with reading and lend a hand on school trips – one parent volunteered to go on a week-long residential trip to Kilvrough in the Gower Peninsula because we needed extra support for a child with medical needs. One mum started up an after-school cookery club and later became a teaching assistant supporting a child with complex needs. All school events – Expectations meetings, Harvest Festival, Transformation Evening, Remembrance Day Assembly, Big Me Day, Christingle, Christmas production and Nativity, Mother's Day and Father's Day assemblies, May Day Maypole, sports day, summer production, Leavers' assembly – are very well-attended by families.

Friends of Lewknor School (FoLS) are hugely supportive and donated £5,000 to school in 2022-23. This money helped pay for curriculum resources such as access to several computer programs (Discovery Coding, Hamilton, Twinkl, White Rose, 2 Simple and Testbase) as well as reading books, maths mastery workbooks, and a range of other resources for the whole school. FoLS treated the whole school - children and staff - to Christmas dinner at the Lambert Arms. FoLS funding also covered whole school outings to the Christmas pantomime at the Oxford Playhouse and to the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford to see a full orchestra play. In July, the whole school took part in a sponsored walk along The Ridgeway. This was organised by FOLS and raised £3,500.

School provides wraparound care from 8am to 5.30pm with a very well-attended breakfast club and a very popular after-school care club every day. Throughout the year we provided extra after-school and lunchtime clubs including science, drama, cookery, sport (football, tennis and dodgeball), drumming and art. (Our football team won the local partnership tournament, which was quite an achievement given that we were the smallest school). Children, in Year 5, take part in cycling proficiency and there has been a 100% pass rate for the past 10 years. All children also take part in run-a-mile sessions daily. Children in Years 3 and 4 learn to play a musical instrument (cornets and trombones this year) through music lessons provided by the Oxfordshire Music Service. This is financed through pupil premium funding.

We share the village hall with several community groups including the pre-school Krakatoa. Our school uses the hall and its grounds for PE and sports day.

Lewknor Primary School was awarded outstanding following its SIAMS inspection in June 2017. The next SIAMS inspection is due to take place in 2025.

This year's Key Stage 2 (Year 6) SATs results are once again well above national figures. 100% of children made the expected standard (ie passed) the maths paper. 90% passed the reading comprehension paper and the spelling, punctuation and grammar paper. 90% also reached the expected standard in writing. Nationally, 73% reached the expected standard in reading, 71% in writing, 72% in spelling, punctuation and grammar, and 73% in maths. Our Key Stage 1 results, which are also well above national figures, was moderated by Oxfordshire County Council. The council sends a moderator to schools every four years or so to check that teachers are assessing properly. The moderator agreed with our teachers' assessments and said Lewknor Primary 'has a robust and rigorous process for assessment.' 87% of our Year 2 pupils achieved the expected standard in reading and maths, while 93% achieved the expected standard in writing. Nationally, in 2022 (2023 results have not yet been released in July 2023), 67% of pupils made the expected standard in reading, 68% in maths and 58% in writing. Lewknor Primary also achieved 100% pass rate in the Year 1 phonics test.

In 2018 the DfE wrote to Lewknor Primary inviting school to become a 'hub' to help other schools lead improvement in the teaching of English and mathematics.

The school was inspected by Ofsted in February 2020 and retained it's good rating under the new Education Inspection Framework. The Ofsted report contained the following comments:

- Leaders and governors have high expectations for pupils at Lewknor. They are passionate about what they do and want the very best for every pupil.
- Pupils thrive at this school. They love learning and are curious and confident learners.
- Pupils leave Lewknor academically and socially very well prepared for secondary education.
- They achieve particularly well in reading, writing and mathematics.
- The school's strong values and Christian ethos are woven through daily life at Lewknor.
- There is a real community feel in this popular and highly regarded school.
- Pupils behave exceptionally well.
- Pupils benefit from a vibrant curriculum.
- Teachers' subject knowledge is strong and they bring learning to life.

- Pupils with special educational needs are fully included in school life.
- Staff work as a tight-knit team. They thoroughly enjoy working at the school and feel well supported.
- Governors know the school well and provide both challenge and support to leaders.
- Parents have nothing but praise for Lewknor and typically describe the school as 'amazing'.