



OXFORD DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

LEWKNOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION 2023-2024

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 2023-2024



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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 2024 there were 81 pupils on roll – 37 were boys (46%) and 44 were girls (54%). The PAN is 15 for the Reception class but we accepted 16 children as one was a late application and the child's sibling was already at school. We were oversubscribed and had to turn away some children whose parents wanted them to attend our Reception class.

The catchment area for the school is very small consisting mainly of Lewknor and the surrounding villages of Postcombe, Adwell and South Weston. In 2023-24 only 28 children (35%) lived in our catchment. The remaining 53 children (65%) came from out of catchment – Chinnor (10), Watlington (9), Stokenchurch (6), Kingston Blount (5), Thame (4), Sydenham (4), Aston Rowant (3), Tiddington (2), Newington (2), Great Haseley (2), Tetsworth (1), Bourne End (1), Chalgrove (1), Henton (1), Benson (1), Worminghall (1).

Numbers in the four classes were: Upper Juniors (Years 5 and 6 with 22 pupils); Lower Juniors (Years 3 and 4, 25 pupils); Infants (Years 1 and 2, 18 pupils) and Reception (16 pupils). The average class size is 20 pupils.

In 2023-24 we had two full-time teachers who went on maternity leave. We were able to recruit a temporary teacher for the Year 5-6 class (this teacher worked alongside the Year 5-6 teacher during the autumn term making the transition very smooth in January 2024 when the teacher went on maternity leave). The second class (Years 1 and 2) was covered by an experienced teacher and by two experienced teaching assistants. From January 2024 to August 2024 there were four full-time and four part-time teaching assistants. One full-time teaching assistant also works as a caretaker. Three teaching assistants run the breakfast and after-school care clubs. The staff also includes a finance officer and an office administrator. The staff are positive, work hard (many go over and above what is required), are committed and keen to develop. 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. There is an annual moderation of writing and Lewknor Primary has organised this event over several years. Teachers are given opportunities to share best practice, which helps raise standards. Pupils also take part in a range of sporting events and tournaments, eg, football, tag rugby, netball, athletics and rounders. Lewknor has plans to team up with Ewelme Church of England Primary School to observe collective worship and RE lessons.

The school has no nursery provision but the village has a pre-school. This was in danger of closing after the May half-term in 2023 because a member of 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 we have strengthened links between school and pre-school.

Attainment on entry to the Reception class varies from year-to-year but staff work hard to ensure that those who start significantly below catch-up with their peers by the end of the year. In September 2023, six of the 16 children (38%) were working either significantly below or below the expected level in reading, writing or maths. However, by the end of the year, four of these children had made excellent progress and had reached a good level of development in all areas. Overall, 88% of the children in the Reception class attained a good level of development across all early learning goals.

Attainment throughout the school has been significantly above national averages for the past 10 years. For example, Lewknor Primary was in the top 5% of all Oxfordshire schools for KS2 attainment in 2023. Children with special educational needs and those entitled to pupil premium funding achieve especially well and tend to reach the expected standard, at least, by the end of Year 6. Many pupil premium children achieve greater depth in English and maths.

In 2024 90% of children in Year 6 made the expected standard in maths, reading and writing combined. 80% reached the expected standard in spelling, punctuation and grammar paper. 90% reached the expected standard in science. Nationally, 74% reached the expected standard in reading, 72% in writing, 72% in spelling, punctuation and grammar, and 73% in maths. The percentage of children who achieved greater depth was: reading (60%), writing (30%), maths (50%), and spelling, punctuation and grammar (40%). Year 6 writing was moderated by Oxfordshire County Council, and the moderator agreed with the teacher's assessments of the children.

The Year 2 children sat the end-of-year KS1 papers even though it is no longer statutory for them to do so. 100% of our Year 2 pupils achieved the expected standard in reading and maths, while 88% achieved the expected standard in writing. 50% of the children achieved greater depth in reading and maths, while 38% achieved greater depth in writing. Lewknor Primary also achieved a 91% pass rate in the Year 1 phonics test.

The school serves pupils from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. At the end of the 2023-24 school year there were 8 pupil premium children (approx.10%). There were 9 children (11%) with special educational needs. Two children have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. One child with an EHCP has alternative provision (Dare2Dream). The second child with an EHCP has one-to-one support at all times. All other 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 (96%). Three pupils (4%) are from a minority ethnic background.

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. Children attend the after-school care club because they enjoy it rather than their parents needing it because of their working hours. Throughout the year we provide extra after-school and lunchtime clubs including science, drama, sport, drumming and art. Children, in Year 5, take part in cycling proficiency and there has been a 100% pass rate for the past 10 years. Children in Years 3 and 4 learn to play a musical instrument (cornets and trombones) through music lessons provided by the Oxfordshire Music Service. This is financed through pupil premium funding.

There has been extensive work completed to the premises over recent years. For example, the main school house was rewired with new lighting, new heating, and a new fire alarm system. The playground has been resurfaced recently. 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.

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

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, and in particular, the vulnerable.

Lewknor Church of England has strong links with the Oxfordshire Diocesan Board of Education, and we have an annual service level agreement with the diocese (S4S). This gives our school access to a range of professionals with a wealth of experience and expertise as well as a range of resources and RE schemes of work.

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

Parents talk about the school community as a family. They are hugely supportive and very positive (see parent surveys taken at parents' evenings). Parents and members of the village community 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 help to organise many events over the school year. FoLS donate £5,000 to school each year. This money helps pay for curriculum resources such as access to several computer programs (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 has also treated the whole school - children and staff - to Christmas dinner at the Lambert Arms over the past three years. 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 2023-2024 two teachers – Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Lomas – joined a team of teachers from other Oxfordshire schools to undertake the Aspiring Headteachers course run by Oxfordshire County Council. Mrs Lomas has also worked as a KS1 moderator for OCC and has visited other primary schools to advise teachers how to assess children's writing accurately.

The school was inspected by Ofsted in February 2020 and retained its 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.

- 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'.
- Pupils with special educational needs are fully included in school life.