

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Edmund's Church of England Primary and Nursery School

Address Church Hill Avenue, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, NG19 9JU

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish

Overall grade

Good

The impact of collective worship

Good

School's vision

A journey to discover 'life in all its fullness'. John 10:10

We provide high quality, rich and truly enjoyable learning experiences, within a thriving Christian community. Everything we do ensures our children achieve their very best, in school and in life. We create emotionally, socially and spiritually well-balanced individuals in an environment of infectious positivity and happiness.

Key findings

- The headteacher's strategic leadership, in line with the Christian vision, has facilitated effective professional development for all staff. This has enabled adults to flourish as strong leaders at all levels.
- Partnership with a cluster of Church schools has contributed strongly to the development of the school and the impact of the Christian vision.
- The pastoral care that is in place for the pupils and staff demonstrates strong impact in supporting the wellbeing of all. This shows the school's commitment to offering a high level of care and compassion so all can flourish.
- Collective worship enables adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship. Supported by the leader for collective worship, pupils have started a development plan to grow their own role in supporting collective worship.
- The school has utilised the resource Understanding Christianity to have a significant impact on religious education (RE) in school. Pupils' knowledge and understanding of different religions and worldviews is less secure.

Areas for development

- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of different world religions and their impact on society and culture.
- Enable pupils to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

The headteacher has skillfully established a strong team of middle and senior leaders that take effective responsibility for their actions as leaders. This is driven by the journey to discover 'life in all its fullness' John 10:10. The school's Christian vision is central to leaders' decision making. This ensures there are effective professional development opportunities in place so all staff flourish. This leads to a very skilled team who have a clear focus to provide the best opportunities for young people.

Right at the start of 'the journey' for pupils at this school, the Christian distinctiveness begins to have an impact and helps families to navigate the tricky times positively. Parents champion and notice the 'extra-mile' staff go to support their children's time and experience at school. They appreciate how accessible the headteacher is and how child-centered the staff at the school are. This relationship between home and school is nurtured and cherished as an absolute expression of working together with the child at the very centre of decision making. The Church school values have helped families at home to support the positive development of their children.

The school cares deeply for all the children and families that attend. It demonstrates a strong level of pastoral care and support for its pupils. The Special Educational Needs and Disability leader (SEND) and Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) work together to liaise around caseload and look to support pupils with the right level of pastoral support in the shortest lead time they can facilitate. The impact of this effective support leads to very well-settled classrooms right the way through the school. The children know they will be listened to and know who they can talk to if they require any help or support at school.

The role of collective worship plays an integral part in school life. It allows the whole school family to come together and the impact on pupil wellbeing is strong. The pupils proudly sing songs inspired by their trips and adventures outside of school, such as the 'Young Voices' concert experience. This time spent in collective worship is valued, and stillness and prayer offer moments of reflection on the learning shared within each worship. The school is embedding its approach to spirituality and leaders use this well in collective worship. They use the resource 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors' to support pupils' views on their own lives and that of their wider community. The pupil worship council have benefited from the diocesan partnership to reflect on collective worship leadership. They attended pupil worship training at Southwell Minster as part of the school's work with the local diocese. They used this day to develop and plan together their future next steps as they aim to begin to have a greater role in leading collective worship.

The school's parliament has a strong desire to help those who may need it the most. When the conflict in Ukraine began, pupils in the parliament saw this as an opportunity to help and support. They knew the school had raised money from non-school uniform days before and promoted their non-school uniform day, asking for donations. This event was decided upon and promoted by the pupils themselves. The community responded by donating four times the usual amount of money to their cause. The pupils reflect the strong care modelled to them by adults at the school as they develop into 'emotionally, socially and spiritually well-balanced individuals' at St Edmunds.

Partnership and working across schools is a strength of the school. It is involved in several effective partnerships and has been recognised by the local diocese for its cluster work. The school has formed a 'community of equals' partnership and it works with other church schools to support the many facets of school life and support each school's Christian distinctiveness. As a one-form entry school, the staff benefit from working across schools and sharing advice and ideas to better support the provision for RE teaching. This has led to a significant impact on their work on Christianity which is rightly celebrated in the school's floor books. Leaders are now keen that by continuing to develop this partnership working, they can improve pupils' understanding of different world religions and develop an appropriate balance within the RE curriculum.

The whole staff care deeply about every single child's experiences at school and they work together to create a plethora of different extra-curricular activities so all children have the chance to try something new. Each term a member of the senior team will offer a 'Reading Camp' where pupils have the opportunity to sleep within the school grounds and share their favourite books. This experience also offers the pupils an opportunity to develop their outdoor learning and forest school skills. Through the offer of school clubs and residential experiences the school encourages all pupils to 'live life in all its fullness'. This array of activities would not be able to take place without the dedication of the many staff volunteers who are keen to support these initiatives. They feel they are a big part of the team helping pupils to develop good mental health enabling all to flourish.

The senior leadership team are immensely proud of the work the school conducted during the pandemic. Selflessness, courage, and compassion guided the senior leaders and staff through difficult times. Staff lost family members during this time to coronavirus and the school positively supported them through this loss. The school family is strong, caring and values every member of the school community as a part of the wider school family.

During all interactions between governors, staff and pupils it was clear that the school nurtures 'every child as a child of God' and they endeavor to support every one of them to succeed. Governors have ensured, by demonstrating their inclusive and distinctive Christian vision, a robust process is in place for evaluating their effectiveness as a Church school. The school demonstrates its ability to nurture and value the school's Christian vision and it is effective in supporting pupils and adults alike to flourish.

Contextual information about the school			
Date of inspection	11 July 2022	URN	112741
Date of previous inspection	19 June 2015		
School status	Voluntary Controlled School	NOR	251
Diocese	Southwell and Nottingham		
Headteacher	Nadeem Shah		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is in line with national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	N/A		
Inspector's name	Martin Kyle	No.	C1810