

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

| Ann Cam Church of England Primary School | |
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| Address | Bayfield Gardens, GL18 2BH |
| 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 |
| The effectiveness of religious education (RE) | Good |

| School's vision |
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| <p>Deeply Rooted and Flourishing Together</p> <p>Psalm 1 portrays the vision we have for all to flourish and prosper.</p> <p>Children join us as seedlings, ready to put down deep roots, to grow and blossom.</p> <p>Together we provide a caring community and exciting environment for all to thrive.</p> |
| Key findings |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Cam Primary School has established a new biblically rooted vision that reflects its community. It is clearly known by pupils, staff and parents. The vision has yet to be fully embedded in all areas of school life. Relationships at Ann Cam are strong. The new vision has inspired excellent teamwork leading to every child being supported in their learning and development. As a result, pupils and adults feel very well cared for and flourish. The curriculum nurtures pupils' talents and aspirations, ensuring they live together with compassion and friendship. Plans exist to further the links between the vision, curriculum and pupils taking social action to help others. These have not yet been fully implemented. Collective worship is an outworking of the new vision and values of Ann Cam. It is impactful and makes a significant contribution to the lives of pupils and staff. Religious education (RE) is well led. Effective planning and use of a range of resources and teaching strategies enable pupils to gain a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of faiths. However, assessment and feedback in lessons does not lead to deeper critical thinking or philosophical thought. |
| Areas for development |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the vision is implemented across all aspects of Ann Cam in order to drive the school's Christian character to inspire and enable pupils to look beyond their own lives. Ensure the plans for pupils to choose and engage with social action initiatives are implemented rapidly to increase their involvement in and understanding of courageous advocacy. Broaden the evaluation and feedback processes in RE to deepen pupil's critical analysis of philosophical ideas. |

Inspection findings

Ann Cam School has been through a period of change, however, the recently established Christian vision has brought stability and direction. Strong partnership working between school leaders, a diocesan adviser and Primary Quest, a local church school multi academy trust, has resulted in a re-shaped vision. Biblically based, it expresses the strong relationships and aspirations of the school and church community. Staff, pupils and parents have already seen a positive impact on behaviour and attitudes to learning. The school has yet to embed the vision across areas of the curriculum to inspire pupils to think beyond themselves. Governors and leaders know the school's strategic priorities well. Careful analysis of strengths and areas to develop has led to a vision driven strategic plan to continue the school's journey. The new vision is having a positive impact on relationships in school, despite the many staff changes there have been. Teamwork is celebrated at Ann Cam and pupils are quick to say how working together gets better outcomes. Consequently, there is a harmonious family feel with the school. The vision is clearly articulated by pupils, staff and community members. It is lived out daily and this leads to a caring school where every opportunity to flourish together is taken.

Daily worship is a celebrated time at Ann Cam. Welcomed and led by pupils and staff, worship is invitational and inclusive. They say it helps them reflect on being 'deeply rooted' in faith so they grow and flourish. Planned around the Christian calendar, Bible stories, the vision and termly values, worship is rich and varied. Pupils take key messages from worship to use in their daily lives. For example, pupils used the story of Moses to learn how to believe in themselves, to be brave and have a go. Worship promotes Anglican traditions, includes a range of styles and hosts visitors from St Mary's Church. Pupils welcome leading worship and joining in with Open the Book, which is a highlight for many pupils. Younger children are inspired to make better choices after watching older pupils act out Bible stories. During the pandemic the local church youth worker provided inspirational recorded worship involving local community members. Pupils and parents welcomed these messages during times of isolation, it brought a sense of extended family and hope.


Staff care deeply about what each pupil needs to develop and flourish at Ann Cam School. The term 'deeply rooted' helps staff make curriculum decisions so each child's needs are met to help their growth and flourishing journey. The beautiful grounds, poly tunnel for gardening, and pool for swimming lessons are used to broaden education and encourage pupils to cherish the world around them. Pupils flourish at Ann Cam because teachers and the special educational needs co-ordinator use pupil progress meetings with parents to work together creating tailored support. It is evident from the fact that staff provided support for vulnerable learners during the pandemic, that the 'flourishing together' element of the vision underpins actions. Parents speak highly of the compassionate nature of the school team. Friday worship celebrates pupil's talents and unique gifts which gives them a sense of pride and self-worth. Spiritual development is an integral part of the curriculum, although some subjects do not make the best use of these opportunities. Prayer and reflection spaces in class are valued by pupils as a time to think and be calm. Children develop self-awareness, perseverance and team building during whole school and class events such as the annual trip to Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre.

Although the vision is new, it is already having an impact on pupil's character development. Lessons frequently start with a 'big question' leading pupils to discuss and explore many topics about the world in which they live. Pupils are encouraged to learn about the wider world and different cultures and to think beyond themselves. They readily talk of injustices in the world such as children not having enough food during times of crisis. As a result, pupils

are inspired to raise money for Children in Need or Ukrainian families experiencing war. However, pupils have few opportunities within the curriculum to challenge disadvantage, deprivation and exploitation of the natural world so they can become courageous advocates for change. Pupils care about their environment locally and litter pick or look after the grounds without being asked. The vision motivates pupils to care more about each other. Pupils grow vegetables and donate these to community members and they regularly donate to 'Lord's Larder', a local foodbank.

'Flourishing Together' is at the heart of Ann Cam leading to excellent relationships within the school and Dymock village. School and community working together has a clear impact on local families such as receiving 'Comfort and Joy' vouchers to use in shops and hostelrys for meals. Close relationships in class inspire pupils to support each other in curriculum projects or in sporting events. Pupils recognise, respect and celebrate differences so children with additional needs or from different cultures are welcomed into the Ann Cam family and treated with dignity. Pupils overcome communication barriers with new classmates by using sign language or an online version of a translator. Pupils say they make sure everyone is 'rooted deeply' into school life. Staff and pupils both talk of a great sense of trust and love between them because their vision extols togetherness. Pupil and staff wellbeing and mental health is high priority. Life education classes are provided for pupils and consequently, children are happy at school. Staff talk passionately of the new leadership going the extra mile to make sure they are supported and cheerful in their work. This enables everyone in school to flourish.

Pupils are motivated and enjoy RE lessons because of the high profile it is given in the curriculum. Strong leadership ensures pertinent support is used to good effect. The Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus alongside the Understanding Christianity resource enables pupils to learn well in RE. They clearly articulate key facts about Christianity and a range of world religions and worldviews. Visits to places of worship, either in person or online broaden understanding. Activities are planned so even the youngest children are excited by and engage fully in their learning. Worship themes, alongside the vision and values of the school are linked to each lesson. This enables pupils to make connections between their own lives, religious texts and theological ideas.

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|  | The effectiveness of RE is | | Good | |
| | Pupils of all abilities progress well in RE at Ann Cam because it is well planned and teaching is consistently good. Pupils are provided with a rich curriculum, taught in a range of styles, so lessons are accessible to all pupils. Evaluation and feedback of pupils' work has yet to be developed fully to provide a greater depth of philosophical ideas and critical thinking. | | | |
| Information | | | | |
| School | Ann Cam Church of England Primary School | Inspection date | 8 December 2022 | |
| URN | 115683 | VC/VA/ Academy | Voluntary aided | |
| Diocese/District | Gloucester | Pupils on roll | 87 | |
| Headteacher | Sarah Smith | | | |
| Chair of Governors | Alex Mattos | | | |
| Inspector | Carol Dougill | No. | 2116 | |