

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Morda CE(C) Primary School</b>	
Address	Morda, SY10 9NR
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	Requires Improvement
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>Morda is a place where children become obsessed by learning. We are founded on our Christian Values: children treat everyone with Compassion and Fairness, showing the Courage to overcome challenges and to stand up for what is right. Morda will open doors of hope and windows of opportunity for all.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong and supportive relationships between pupils and adults create a nurturing community. Staff work well as a team and pupils act as role models for the younger pupils.</li> <li>• Senior leaders and governors share the school's vision and its importance in the community context but some staff and pupils are unable to do so. Leaders, pupils and adults express limited knowledge of any biblical foundations of the vision.</li> <li>• Collective worship is well planned by the joint headteacher and vicar. This is enriched by the strong links with the local church community.</li> <li>• Pupils are well motivated to learn about religious and non-religious worldviews. The curriculum is too new and not yet fully developed therefore not effectively supporting pupils learning.</li> <li>• This is a nurturing school community where all are treated with dignity and respect, although a shared understanding of spirituality within the life of the school is yet to be developed. Pupils can access reflection areas in some classrooms but not everyone is aware of how they can be used for this purpose.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly define the biblical foundations of the school vision to ensure that all can articulate this so that pupils and adults flourish as a Christian community.</li> <li>• Establish robust systems to enable leaders at all levels, including governors, to evaluate the effectiveness of the school as a Church of England school.</li> <li>• Develop a creative religious education curriculum that builds knowledge and skills, and has assessment opportunities to secure pupil outcomes.</li> <li>• Implement a clear and shared understanding of spiritual development so that through the curriculum, teaching and learning, pupils can flourish.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

Morda Church of England Primary School is a compassionate and caring school community. Every child is valued and is encouraged to show 'Courage, Compassion and Fairness' as part of their everyday life in school. This is an inclusive school and a particular strength is the provision for special education needs and disability (SEND) with one parent speaking highly of how well their child's additional needs had been met to enable them to flourish. The school's vision is not embedded in biblical theology, it is therefore unclear and is not widely appreciated and consistently applied throughout the school community. Pupils and staff are not always clear how the vision and its values are rooted in a Christian and biblical narrative. Monitoring and evaluation by governors and senior leaders has not been adequately focused on the distinctive Christian features of a Church school. Leaders and key staff have not received the training appropriate to their roles and the partnership with the diocese is not a distinctive feature of the school. Overall effectiveness as a Church school is limited and requires improvement.

The school vision informs the approach to behaviour management and the pupils follow the rules 'Be kind, Be Safe and Be Ready'. Staff use these to help pupils to reflect upon their choices with restorative conversations taking place. This ensures all move on after any disagreements well, with forgiveness being encouraged. Pupils' talents are valued and celebrated both in and out of school and constructive relationships result in good behaviour for all. Some children were keen to share that they were part of the church choir and very much enjoyed singing together. Pupils care for each other and are responsive to the needs of others which is evident through their engagement with charities. Most recently children had a bake sale for the Ukraine, supported Food Bank for Harvest and held a toy drive at Christmas to give those less fortunate a present. Pupils do not fully understand that they can bring about changes and it is planned to develop this aspect of school life as adults currently guide their charitable giving.

Collective Worship is enjoyed by all pupils as they fully participate. It is being effectively planned and led by the vicar and joint headteacher. It supports pupils' spiritual and moral development. The pupils very much enjoy singing as part of worship each day. The partnership with the church greatly enriches the worship both whole school and as classes. Pupils know the importance of prayer and are encouraged to lead the school in prayers as part of worship each day. Pupils regularly say their own prayers for their peers. Pupils enjoy leading worship for their peers that they have planned with the joint headteacher for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and as the Year 6 move on to the next phase of their education. The values delivered through collective worship supports pupil knowledge of Bible stories and they can talk about the values shared in worship being rooted in the Bible.

Spiritual development is supported by class reflection areas and the opportunity to reflect outdoors and the wellbeing area, although not all pupils are clear as to how these areas can be used for this purpose. Whilst a start has been made in developing pupils' spirituality, there is not yet a shared definition or policy in place to enable teachers to plan progressively the opportunities for pupils. As a result, planning to support pupils' spiritual development within the curriculum, and through teaching and learning, is not as effective as it could be.

A significant strength of Morda is the support that the school gives to its families. This is reflected in an attitude that every child and family matters, and that absolutely no one should be left behind. The wellbeing leader is held in very high regard by the families as the person who can support and help at life's most challenging times. She provides support where she can and has excellent links with clergy and other local people who help to ensure that all families are loved and supported. She organises three wellbeing weeks, 'sleep well, eat well

and be active'. During each week pupils and their families are encouraged to try new things and make positive wellbeing choices for the future.

Leaders and staff take action to ensure pupil wellbeing is a priority. They provide pastoral support for families in the wider community and ensure food hampers are available. The vicar and church team work closely with the wellbeing lead to support pupils and their families. This ensures that the school's ongoing focus on wellbeing is maintained.

RE has been evaluated recently and is now given the appropriate amount of time as part of the whole school curriculum. The RE curriculum provides opportunities for the pupils to develop the age-appropriate skills of enquiry, critical analysis and interpretation. Pupil respond well to the teaching of RE. Discussions take place on various aspects of the curriculum. Pupils are able to demonstrate knowledge and respectful understanding of other major world faiths. Older pupils could explain God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and why the resurrection of Jesus is significant for Christians. The RE curriculum and assessment systems have too recently been put in place to have an impact.

Morda is currently on a journey of improvement, this is evident in the focus that has been given to raising the educational standards of all pupils. There is a lack of theological underpinning of the vision and monitoring and evaluation by leaders. Improvements are required to be an effective Church school which enables adults and children to flourish together.

Information			
School	Morda CE(C) Primary School	Inspection date	19 January 2023
URN	123484	VC/VA/Academy	
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	106
Joint Headteachers	John Eglin & Helen Chapman		
Chair of Governors	Harry Pickavance		
Inspector	Sara Goddard	No.	976