

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Primary School, Huntingdon	
Address	Sallowbush Road, Huntingdon, PE29 7LA
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
The vision for our school is rested in our shared love and respect for all and for ourselves. Through our love of God and of each other, our children will thrive personally and academically in a happy, safe place of faith and high expectation for all. John 10:10
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School leaders, supported by local church leaders have established a clear Christian vision based on the unconditional love of Christ as experienced by St John. This embedded vision fosters a strong sense of family within the school, the church and its parent community. • Pupils, families and adults feel included, cared for and valued. The nurturing culture of the school ensures the well being of the whole school community. • The dedicated leadership of the school and academy trust enables a broad, wise and focused curriculum, which is shaped by the school vision. As a result pupils flourish in their learning and resilience. • The majority of religious education (RE) provision is delivered by two teachers. This covers staff planning preparation and assessment time, opportunities for all staff to participate in RE teaching are limited. • Collective Worship is appreciated as a special time of the day. It meets statutory requirements. Pupils take part but do not yet plan, lead and evaluate collective worship
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For pupils to effectively initiate, prepare, participate and evaluate inspirational collective worship leading to greater spiritual growth • For all staff to have the opportunity to express the inclusive nature of the school's Christian vision through RE • For pupils to develop their understanding of courageous advocacy, social injustice and inequality in national and global issues

Inspection findings

St John's Primary is inclusive and welcoming. The school's clear Christian vision focuses on the child and is at the heart of all the school does. It is rooted in the theology of Jesus who came to give life in all its fullness. A governor led review of the vision enabled leaders to develop a vision that reflects the local context and places the child at the centre. Led by an energetic acting headteacher, all members of the school community live out this vision. Pupils are provided with the tools they need to become life long learners with hope and high aspirations for their future. Positive attitudes and habits are encouraged through the core values of kindness, respect and resilience. This is a priority for school leaders and impacts on staff and pupil wellbeing. All members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. Relationships within the local community are positive. The school has built a relationship with the local Roman Catholic Polish church who use the school building at weekends.

The curriculum has been planned and developed collaboratively by senior leaders and subject leads. The outworking of the vision means all pupils receive an equal entitlement. Leaders are resolved that no one is left behind. Support is given for pupils with additional needs. They are enabled to access learning and express their understanding in a way that suits them. All areas of the curriculum are monitored against 'life in all its fullness'. This ensures pupils are developing the knowledge and skills to have hope and aspiration.

Parents speak well about the school, praising it for its caring, nurturing environment and the values the children have instilled into them. They see the outworking of the values in the way the children interact with each other and in the way their children learn. One parent said that her child's learning has 'rocketed' since joining the school. Parents value the school's attitude and accessibility enabling families to feel supported. Pupils are clear about the importance of their St John's promise talking openly of the need for kindness, respect and resilience.

Pupils are learning to live well together, forgiving each other and respecting one another's point of view. The school is prompt to offer support, provision and changes in routine when challenging behaviours occur. Senior leaders do their utmost to facilitate pupils remaining in the school setting. They believe this ensures the child, 'whoever they are, flourishes and feels safe and respected.'

The diverse ranges of beliefs that are held within this community are perceived as a strength and an opportunity to learn from each other. One pupil said, 'it is easier to understand other people if you know about their beliefs and the things they think are important.' As a result, relationships flourish as pupils engage, play and work together.

The pupil parliament, the eco champions and through undertaking roles of responsibility pupils become involved in social action. By developing their pupil voice they aspire to make a difference and show love for others. The eco champions have had a positive impact on the reduction in parking outside school inspiring other schools to come to speak to them about it. Pupils recognise injustice and inequality exists within national and global society. However they have yet to use their collective voices to become courageous advocates or as agents for change beyond local issues.

The collective worship is planned and sequenced. It is Christian based, invitational and inclusive with an opportunity for prayer. It is mostly led by members of the leadership team. Visitors from the local clergy also lead collective worship and are well received. Pupils say they enjoy collective worship particularly whole school singing. They value it as an important part of the day and an opportunity for the school community to be together. The collective worship group is developing opportunities to independently plan and lead collective worship

but this is not yet embedded. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on the focus of the worship. This can be seen on the reflection walls in classrooms. Pupils have some opportunities to use worship, personal prayer and reflection as an aid to spiritual growth. Parents waiting on the playground at the close of school say they enjoy hearing the pupils say their end of day prayers.

RE is well led by a knowledgeable leader. The syllabus is based on the locally agreed syllabus and 'Understanding Christianity.' It has been well implemented and resourced by the school. The RE leader engages readily with the Diocese as a provider of support and training for the RE curriculum. The governors have allocated a budget for resources and the continuous professional development of the RE leader. Principally two members of staff teach RE. Not all class teachers regularly teach RE each week which limits opportunities to further explore religious, spiritual and philosophical ideas across the curriculum. The pupils enjoy their RE lessons. They have a good understanding of religious vocabulary. RE books have been used as examples for external writing moderation. Within their RE lessons pupils are developing their curiosity and ask 'big questions', strengthening their debating skills. They are able to reflect upon and explore their own opinions and are given the opportunity to develop an informed and respectful understanding of religions and world views. Pupils demonstrate good subject knowledge enabling them to understand the modern world around them and the differences in it. The impact of the school vision gives pupils an entitlement to thrive both academically and personally.

Information			
School	St John's Church of England Primary School, Huntingdon	Inspection date	6 December 2022
URN	144289	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Ely	Pupils on roll	363
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust		
Acting Headteacher	Rebecca Soper		
Chair of Governors	Joy Walker		
Inspector	Teresa Osborne	No.	2130