

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Acle St Edmund Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Fletcher Way, Acle, NR13 3RQ
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent

School's vision
<p>From a tiny seed ... all things are possible.</p> <p>We are committed to providing a nurturing environment where all learners flourish. Through all that we do we believe that all learners can grow and achieve in order to live life to its fullest, be welcoming to all and be outward looking.</p> <p>The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches. Matthew 13:31</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is deeply embedded and underpins everything that the school does. It is well-known and understood by all. It is the golden thread running through the school. The inspirational leadership team is passionately committed to creating a strong learning community where all can flourish. As a result, the pace of improvement is rapid. • Pupils make a difference to the lives of others, through fundraising and initiating some local enterprises. Currently, there are limited opportunities for them to expand social action activities. • Collective Worship inspires and enriches pupils and positively supports the embedded opportunities for spiritual development. • Spirituality is well defined and planned for throughout the curriculum. Pupils have many occasions for spiritual development throughout the school day. However, they do not have a designated spiritual space in school. • Religious education (RE) is a rigorous academic subject. It is carefully planned and consequently positively impacts on, and is valued by, the pupils.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the excellent opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum by developing a designated spiritual space within the school. This is so the impact of spiritual development is fully maximised. • Further empower pupils to engage in social actions in order to make a difference to the wider community.

Inspection findings

This excellent Church school embodies the vision that from a tiny seed all things are possible. The well-established Christian vision underpins school life, enabling pupils and adults to flourish. The school community is fully alive to, and impacted by, the vision, which motivates all to grow and achieve. Consequently, pupils are aspirational, inquisitive and motivated to be outward looking. Extensive leadership opportunities for pupils support the building of interdependent and harmonious relationships.

The Christian vision drives leaders to provide excellent direction and considered choices. Professional development is a priority, resulting in staff accessing life-changing opportunities. The governing body make wise strategic decisions including appointing a wellbeing co-ordinator and investing in an aspirational curriculum. Each person understands they are valued. Partnerships, including with parents and local churches, are exceptional, with the school being a valued resource. Harvest and Christmas services, and curriculum learning opportunities in the local church, ensure pupils feel part of the wider Christian community. Inspiring RE complements the ambitious wider curriculum, underpinned by the schools own 'Flourishing Foundations' curriculum, and extends pupils' cultural awareness.

The distinctive vision is embedded in the school's culture. The commitment to provide a nurturing environment encourages the potential of all. The Christian vision is at the heart of planning, teaching and subsequently learning. It drives aspiration so pupils develop wisdom, knowledge and skills to achieve well in life and make informed choices. Extensive professional development and coaching ensures an expert workforce. Staff cherish the opportunities they are given. Close associations exist between the diocese, local academy and school. Leaders are mindful of the isolation of this rural village school, so provide transformative opportunities to broaden pupils' cultural awareness. The bespoke, outward-looking curriculum offers life-changing experiences to extend pupils' knowledge and empathy. Learning experiences are enhanced by highly skilled, qualified and dedicated staff and therefore pupils are supported to succeed. The ambitious curriculum encourages curiosity and determination, challenging pupils, including the most able. Through exceptional nurturing and support, pupils are enabled to be aspirational. They flourish at their own levels, making the most of their talents. Pupils ask searching questions and confidently use the language of Christian values. These encourage pupils to be curious about the wider world and begin their role as global citizens. Extra-curricular opportunities are well supported and valued highly. Relationships throughout the school are accepting and respectful.

Spiritual flourishing is central to pupils' growth, learning and development, with the aim of pupils living life to its fullest. The policy and shared definition of spirituality have been thoughtfully and accurately constructed. Meticulously planned opportunities for spiritual development are carefully placed throughout learning. Pupils respond to spiritual dimensions of learning with high level discussion and deep interest. Worship provides opportunities for reflective responses, stillness and prayer, enhancing the spiritual development of all. Pupils encounter moments of wonder and awe, are encouraged to develop curiosity, and are given time to think and reflect. Currently, there is no designated spiritual space in school to support pupils' development.

Parents are proud of the school's Christian vision and values, and its reputation for aspiration, care and nurture. Behaviour is exemplary because expectations are consistently modelled and lived out by the whole community. Pupils build respectful relationships in a safe, nurturing environment and develop positive attitudes towards learning. Pupils are resilient to setbacks, cope in adversity and disagree caringly. They understand how to stay safe, including online, and learn that bullying is unacceptable. They value respect, trust and honesty. Pupils

experience a wide range of leadership roles, including the Pupils' Parliament, Eco-council and a young leadership scheme. They are passionate about their responsibilities and link them to the Christian vision and school values. As highly regarded members of the school community, they are excellent role models. Outstanding transition arrangements, result in new pupils being quickly welcomed, becoming independent, confident members of the school community. Equally, parents accurately report that the vision enables continued growth at secondary school. Leaders have expertly adapted an exemplary curriculum designed to develop the pupils' awareness and understanding of global issues and diversity.

Pupils use their wisdom to be advocates of change, have a strong sense of social justice and want to bring hope. They engage in activities that make a difference, as shown by their re-wilding work as 'Wildlife Warriors' and charitable fundraising. Some opportunities for social action in the community occur. Studying courageous individuals inspires the realisation that one person makes a difference, and pupils can become agents of social change. Pupils consider RE a very important subject as 'if you don't learn about other religions, you might not accept people for their beliefs.' Adults compassionately support all pupils, accepting and embracing needs and difference.

Collective worship is inclusive, invitational, and integral to the life of the school. The Christian vision underpins worship and encourages pupils and adults to take opportunities to engage. Pupils talk with enthusiasm about worship and how it influences them as individuals. They build on their positive experience of participating in, and carefully evaluating worship, recording their reflections in class floor books. Pupils use these carefully considered responses to regularly plan and deliver collective worship themselves. Leading worship is considered a privilege and pupils are extremely respectful, responsive and reflective. Prayer is a natural part of the culture of the school. Worship inspires personal responses, including natural moments where pupils are proud to lead the school in their own prayers. Thoughtfully planned, using the school's vision and values, worship also celebrates the church calendar and national events. Collective worship is highly valued, enthusing and uplifting all. Leaders, staff, pupils and church partners collaborate to lead worship that is interactive and biblically based. Demonstrating the breadth of Christian tradition in collective worship enables pupils to gain an understanding of church customs.

At the core of the curriculum is engaging RE that inspires and empowers. Pupils are encouraged to excel, are proud of their work and appreciate the many excellent opportunities for thoughtful, philosophical responses. Skilful questioning enables pupils to make deep, meaningful responses and shine in lively debate. This approach, embraced by staff and pupils motivates pupils to learn and achieve highly. The dedicated RE leader facilitates staff development to ensure teaching and learning are of the highest order and effective practice is widely shared. Rigorous assessment ensures all pupils understand their work, make progress and achieve highly. RE provides a safe place for pupils to reflect carefully on their own beliefs and explore ideas. Christianity is recognised as a global faith and pupils are supported in acquiring a deep knowledge of different world religions and worldviews.



Information			
School	Acle St Edmund Church of England VC Primary School	Inspection date	16 March 2023
URN	121024	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Norwich	Pupils on roll	176
Headteacher	Rebecca Clarke		
Chair of Governors	Alastair Smyth		
Inspector	Lynne Golding	No.	2124