

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

<b>Whittlebury Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	High Street, Whittlebury, NN12 8XH
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>'Small enough to care, Large enough to inspire, Valuing All God's children.'</p> <p>'All things are possible to one who believes.' (Mark 9: 23)</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All are personally known, valued and celebrated within this small-school community. The Christian vision is having a formational and transformational impact on the lives of pupils and adults.</li> <li>• Pupils thrive within a vibrant curriculum offer. They exercise their curiosity and creativity in ways that contribute significantly to their academic and spiritual development. The lack of a shared understanding of spirituality limits opportunities for further enrichment.</li> <li>• Bold decision making has placed the school firmly at the centre of the community it serves. The confidence and self-belief of all, deriving from the vision, inspires the school to look inwards and outwards in love.</li> <li>• Collective worship has a profound impact upon members of the school community. Pupils, staff and wider stakeholders speak unequivocally about how it inspires them to reflect deeply upon self, others the world and God.</li> <li>• A high-quality religious education (RE) offer contributes richly to pupils' religious literacy. Pupils engage in balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief, with reference to their own worldview. Pupils' understanding of Christianity as a diverse faith is underdeveloped.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To embed even deeper opportunities for spiritual development across school life to meet, more fully, the spiritual needs of all.</li> <li>• To extend pupils' religious literacy in order to develop their understanding of Christianity as a lived, diverse, global faith.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

The established Christian vision, biblically underpinned, infuses all aspects of school life. Leaders and pupils are unswerving in their commitment to love and encourage one another in the pursuit of flourishing. The embrace of the small school community, in which each member is personally known and celebrated, has led to a transformative culture of aspiration. Leaders have proactively kept abreast of developments in Church school education, RE and the area of spiritual development. Through well-considered use of diocesan training, it is leading the way. Consequently, pupils benefit from a broad and rich school experience. The impact of the vision is rigorously monitored by leaders and governors. This has enabled the vision, and community flourishing, to remain at the forefront of school development and growth to a five-school federation. Partnerships with the diocese, church and federation impact positively on the daily experience of pupils and staff.

Leaders empower staff to be the best they can be and this helps pupils realise their aspirations. They relish learning and participating in school life. Pupils describe how the 'five Cs': Christian, community, creative, curiosity and confidence, are the very foundation of their curriculum experience. As a result, this has instilled deep levels of self-belief and curiosity where they are 'always wanting to explore more'. Pupils, including vulnerable groups, achieve well as progress is closely tracked and support bespoke offered. 'Blue heart' questions provide meaningful opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum. They enable pupils to think deeply, and personally reflect upon, the content they are studying. This simple, innovative step profoundly impacts pupils' self-awareness and views on how they want to relate to the world and others. The absence of a shared understanding of spirituality means that wider opportunities for spiritual development across school life are not always recognised nor acted upon.

The school's Christian values, including courage, generosity and service, are firmly rooted in the vision. Leaders have ably enabled the values to play a prominent part in school life; they are proudly visible and regularly demonstrated. Pupils serve their community through various and effective leadership opportunities including the eco and school council. These opportunities allow pupils to actively demonstrate their heart for the earth and others in a myriad of ways, including recycling drives and charitable support. The deep value for others inspires a desire to support those in need whenever possible. Sending toys to children in Ukraine and food provisions to those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey are but two examples. These values, woven through collective worship and the curriculum, regularly inspire deep conversations on local, national and global issues at home.

The vision has inspired the school to meet the needs of the community it serves. Leaders have implemented a 'flexi-schooling' offer through which many elective home-schoolers have opted to attend the school on a part- and increasingly full-time basis. The nurturing, pastoral support of leaders has underpinned the success of this offer. Across the school, pupils have both opportunity and confidence to act as courageous advocates in addressing inequality and injustice in the world. Pupils have taken the initiative in stressing urgent action in caring for the planet, such as through creating bee friendly environments and reducing pollution. Pupils also held a coffee morning to raise funds for 'baby basics'. The executive headteacher's commitment to the flourishing of all has seen her actively forge supportive partnerships with over twenty local schools. This endeavour has emerged as an overflowing of the embodiment of courage, generosity and service.

Leaders have used the vision to shape a culture where all can grow and pursue possibility. Staff delight in working in the federation. It has enabled them to take professional and personal steps that they never imagined they could make. The corridor quote 'all unique but



a masterpiece' accurately describes the ways in which all within this community feel valued and empowered. The sense of wellbeing is incredibly high. At Whittlebury, diversity, in all its forms, is recognised and celebrated. Pupils have a wealth of opportunities to encounter and understand diversity and difference through curricular opportunities and enrichment days. Wise governance has ensured that policy and practices in the school have enabled the community to flourish during federation growth.

Collective worship is a jubilant expression of the school's vision. It is a joyful and participatory experience for pupils and staff, in ways that are inclusive, invitational and inspirational. The Bible is imaginatively explored in ways which constantly refer to the school's vision and values. This allows pupils to reflect upon the values in practical and relevant ways. For instance, pupils have been inspired by the story of Daniel and the lion's den to show courage in their learning and relationships. Through a strong partnership with the parish church and wider Christian groups, pupils benefit from a range of leaders and worship styles. Opportunities to reflect through story, discussion, drama, silence and celebration contribute significantly to pupils' and adults' spirituality. Worship has a profound impact on pupils' self-belief and aspirations in and out of school. It is well-planned and allows pupils to become knowledgeable about Anglican worship practices, including the Eucharist, and the Christian belief of God as Trinity.

Pupils are inspired by the vision to regularly lead collective worship themselves. This is highly valued for helping the school community to reflect deeply upon themselves, others, the world and God. Outside of collective worship, a variety of reflection areas and activities are actively used by pupils to pray or spiritually reflect throughout the school day. The eco-council have created a reflective garden, one of many examples of pupils taking the lead in facilitating the spiritual reflection of the school community. Monitoring of worship is highly effective; it includes all and drives continuous improvement.

RE is exceptionally led by a committed subject leader. All pupils flourish in RE due to high levels of challenge and personalised support. Pupils build on their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and world religions through a carefully planned curriculum. Close work with the diocese has enabled leaders to shape and trial new resources. These have allowed pupils to enquire into religion and worldviews through theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences. RE weeks, and an impressive array of visits and visitors, further enrich pupils' religious literacy. Pupils' understanding of Christianity as a diverse, living, global faith is nevertheless underdeveloped. The subject leader offers support and training across the federation. Such training has allowed teachers to have a strong grasp of enquiry approaches to learning across a range of religions and worldviews. Within these effective enquiries, pupils benefit from regular opportunities to reflect upon their own worldview.



Information			
School	Whittlebury Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	10 February 2023
URN	122003	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Peterborough	Pupils on roll	64
Mrs	Eliza Hollis		
Chair of Governors	Daniel Lister		
Inspector	Ryan Parker	No.	982