

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Neatishead Church of England Primary School	
Address	School Road, Neatishead, NR12 8XN
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>Our school is the secure base from where we realise our ambitions.</p> <p>Through valuing one another and the world in which we live, we flourish.</p> <p>Through providing rich opportunities, we can imagine fulfilling futures.</p> <p>Through a shared love of learning, we transform lives.</p> <p>“They will soar on wings like eagles”</p> <p>Isaiah 40:31</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aspirational and inspiring vision drives the strategic direction of the school. It is deeply embedded in all that the school does and is well known by pupils, staff and the community. • Empowered by the inspirational leadership of the executive headteacher, dedicated staff provide a stimulating, engaging and challenging education for all. Pupils are celebrated as individuals and all are encouraged to 'soar like eagles' and achieve their best. Currently opportunities to develop pupil leadership are limited. • Relationships, underpinned by trust and respect, bind the school together. Exceptional church and community links ensure a range of dedicated volunteers support the school. • Collective worship, supported by excellent relationships with local churches, is at the heart of the school community. It enriches all, and enables them to make connections to their lives and learning. Collective worship enhances the many opportunities for spiritual development. • A rich and engaging religious education (RE) curriculum is tailored carefully to the school's needs. This inspires pupils to explore a wide range of religious and philosophical ideas, resulting in deep understanding.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance pupils' opportunities for collaborative work with school leaders, including governors. This is to further develop their understanding of how they can challenge injustice through social action.



Inspection findings

Ambition and opportunity underpin the aspirational Christian vision of this excellent church school. It embodies the vision of soaring on wings like eagles and enables pupils and adults to flourish. Well-established and understood by the pupils, staff and community, the vision drives the strategic direction of the school. Consequently, pupils are confident, inquisitive and motivated to widen their horizons. Worship groups encourage pupils across the age range to work together, building interdependent and harmonious relationships. Each person understands they are valued.

The Christian vision empowers leaders at all levels to make astute decisions on future growth and development. Significant innovations, including 'vision days', ensure the distinctive vision is clarified and to the forefront of school life. Exceptional partnerships within the federation, diocese and local churches make this school a beacon of excellence in the community. The highly effective governing body provides excellent direction and makes wise decisions. Increasing to three classes and adding a school to the federation impacts positively on the quality of education and wellbeing. Services for Harvest and Christmas and 'experience days' in the local church ensure pupils feel part of the wider Christian community. Leaders are aware of the isolation of this small village school and provide transformative opportunities to broaden pupils' cultural awareness. The exemplary curriculum offers life-changing experiences to extend pupils' knowledge and empathy, forging links to Zimbabwe and Australia. The federation enables shared subject leadership, resources and workload, therefore enhancing wellbeing. Relationships throughout the school are accepting and respectful.

Pupils love learning, are independent and make great progress. The Christian vision inspires aspiration so they develop wisdom, knowledge and skills to achieve well in life. The curriculum is empowering and encourages curiosity. Opportunities abound for pupils to expand their horizons, improve their experience and understanding of the world and flourish. The same ambition exists for adults. Extensive professional development ensures an expert, enthusiastic workforce. The vision, embedded in the school's culture, nurtures the full potential of all. It is at the heart of planning, teaching and subsequently learning. Dedicated, skilled staff determinedly support and enhance learning experiences so pupils are ambitious and achieve. Pupils are extremely articulate. They are emboldened to ask, and answer, probing questions, such as, 'Did we make God's world ugly?' The curriculum inspires aspiration, enabling pupils, including the most able, to respond positively and flourish. An understanding that outstanding teaching and learning opens up worlds and transforms lives permeates the school. Pupils identified as vulnerable, and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities are encouraged to soar. They have their needs sensitively addressed, are supported to be aspirational, broaden their horizons and thrive. Opportunities for spiritual flourishing are key to pupils' development. Valued moments for deep reflection are provided throughout their learning. The policy and shared definition of spirituality have been thoughtfully, and accurately, constructed. They create a uniform language of spiritual development throughout the school. Peaceful reflection areas provide space to enrich the pupil's experience of the mystery of life. Pupils encounter moments of wonder and awe, are encouraged to develop curiosity and given time and space to think and reflect. Worship provides opportunities for reflective responses, stillness and prayer, enhancing the spiritual development of all.

Families are proud of the school's reputation for ambition and encouragement. They actively choose the school for its vision, ethos and atmosphere. Christian values including trust, responsibility and respect arise from the deeply held vision which permeates every aspect of



school life. Behaviour is exemplary, characterised by empathy and respectful relationships. Pupils are empowered to disagree well, stay safe and stand up for others. Through their learning, all have a personal understanding that bullying is unacceptable. This enriches lives throughout the school. Pupils are exceptionally considerate and caring. They watch over each other, celebrate differences and work collaboratively across the age range. They have a mature understanding of right and wrong, value honesty, fairness and compassion. Excellent transition arrangements mean new pupils quickly become confident members of the school community. Neatishead's ambition to 'soar on wings like eagles' enables continued flourishing at secondary school.

Appreciation of diversity and difference is enriched through meaningful activities such as the art collaboration entitled, 'The Colours we share.' They enhance pupil's awareness and understanding of global issues like climate change. Pupils have a sense of social justice, and know they can make a difference to the world. Circle time enables pupils to discuss international events and local issues and raise matters with staff. Understanding the problems of litter around the school sparks pupils into action. This leads to a practical response, resulting in improvements for all. Opportunities to become agents of change enhance lives. The 'reverse advent calendar', created by pupils to support others, exemplifies the natural care permeating school and beyond. Adults compassionately support all pupils, accepting and embracing needs and differences. Staff actively promote excellent well-being. This helps pupils overcome anxieties and transforms their mental health, especially with the impact of the COVID pandemic.

Pupil worship groups support inspiring, inviting and inclusive worship. Carefully planned, using the school's vision and values, it follows the church calendar and reflects current affairs. Memorable, highly valued worship enthuses and supports all. It is central to school life, sustaining the community and addressing their needs and aspirations. Leaders, clergy and staff collaborate to produce creative and biblically based worship. Pupils participate in, and lead elements of praise. They evaluate and record responses thoughtfully which enhances future planning, ensuring the impact of worship on all at Neatishead is exceptional. Christian symbols and displays give a focus for reflection. Leading areas of worship is considered a privilege and pupils are respectful, responsive and reflective. Pupils appreciate the importance and gravity that reading their prayers in church gives them. Church leaders are actively involved with the school, linking it to wider community activities. Intrinsic links between the school and the church, including visits for celebrations, learning and worship, enrich both. An inviting outdoor reflection area inspires pupils' spirituality, encouraging reflection, prayer and quiet thoughtfulness.

Central to the curriculum is inspiring RE that engages and empowers. Pupils are proud of their work and enjoy the many opportunities to learn more about faith. Consideration of 'big questions' provides them with profound moments of critical reflection which extends understanding. Pupils excel in RE. They make deep, meaningful responses and enjoy lively debate. The RE leader facilitates staff development to ensure teaching and learning of the highest quality. Careful assessment means pupils understand their work and achieve consistently highly, motivating them to learn. Pupils feel that learning about world religions in RE is important. The curriculum enriches pupils' appreciation of religious diversity and worldviews.

Information			
School	Neatishead Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	10 February 2023
URN	121090	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Norwich	Pupils on roll	64
Executive Headteacher	Julie Church		
Chair of Governors	Jane Gay		
Inspector	Lynne Golding	No.	2124