

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Swaffham Bulbeck Church of England Primary School	
Address	84 High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck, CB25 0LX
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
<p>We are a welcoming, inclusive Church school which fosters a love of learning through collaboration. Our Christian values support the nurture and development of relevant knowledge and skills for today's world. As everyone's voice is valued, so everyone flourishes as individuals to reach their potential and to 'Shine Brightly'.</p> <p>'Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' Matthew 5:16</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This school knows and understands every individual and supports them to 'shine brightly'. Its Christian vision is lived out in every day school life. However, it is not always evident within the school's documentation. • Partnerships and positive relationships are key strengths of the school. Mutually beneficial connections, such as with the church and their partnership school, enhance their Christian distinctiveness. • There are opportunities for deep reflection, contributing towards spirituality, within the school's exciting curriculum. However, it is not fully developed across each subject area. • Collective worship strengthens the community commitment to shine brightly. Pupils enjoy their current roles within it. These include evaluating the impact of worship and being part of its further development. • The religious education (RE) curriculum enables pupils to learn about and respect the diversity of religious beliefs. However, understanding of Christianity as a global faith is limited.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Christian vision is explicit within key documentation to underpin and shape future plans and policies. This will ensure further development as a Church school. • Strengthen the shared understanding of spirituality, so that spiritual growth becomes an intrinsic part of every area of the curriculum. • Develop understanding of Christianity as a global faith, to give breadth and depth to pupils' knowledge of this world religion. This will develop their understanding of the variety of ways in which God might be approached.

Inspection findings

Leaders have worked with the entire community to establish a vision that is relevant and meaningful. It is well-embedded and parents and pupils recognise its impact. The community joins together in encouraging one another to do their best and to 'shine brightly'. Their approach is inclusive and ensures all flourish at Swaffham Bulbeck Church of England Primary School. The ethos of the school is deeply rooted within the biblical text. An inspiring mural in the library serves as a visual reminder of the vision's roots. The associated Christian values of compassion, reverence and respect, hope, peace, forgiveness, thankfulness and endurance, support and link with the vision. This is recognised by the school community who describe how these values contribute to their flourishing as individuals. The school is the hub of the village and links within it and beyond. The parish church is currently without a vicar. However, members of the church community maintain the strong relationship with the school. Their support enriches worship in school. The school works in partnership with a local school. They share staff expertise across both sites and enable staff to shine in their roles. Strong partnerships with the Diocese and the Diocese of Ely Multi-academy Trust (DEMAT) ensure that the school benefits from support and training opportunities for staff and governors. They also monitor and evaluate the school's practice with leaders, to advise on further development. The strong relationships with the Diocese and DEMAT enable staff to network with other schools. They also allow them to build upon and share good practice. The vision is lived out in all the school does. However, leaders miss opportunities to highlight the vision's significance within, for example, key planning and policy documents.

School leaders' commitment to the flourishing of pupils is shown by the priority given to pupils' and staff wellbeing. This is firmly rooted within the school's Christian vision, with everyone given the care to flourish. Leaders support this by appointing a wellbeing lead and improving an area in school to give focused support to pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). As a result, pupils, parents and staff receive support specific to their needs. Skilled staff implement the 'ten keys to happiness', which focuses on different aspects of character development. It improves emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and so provides more opportunities to 'shine brightly'. Pupils benefit from an exciting curriculum and enjoy the richness and relevance of their learning. At the end of a unit, as they complete their final task, pupils are excited to reflect upon the knowledge they have acquired. Staff nurture pupils to achieve their potential by ensuring equity of opportunity. Staff assess the needs of the individual so that each one is equipped to live the fullness of life. Regardless of ability, all pupils shine. Pupils experience moments of awe and wonder in their learning. This includes Forest School. Opportunities for spiritual growth, such as developing the sense of self and personal values that go beyond the material world are not always explored. This is because spirituality is not planned for in all curriculum areas. Staff are developing a shared understanding of spiritual development.

Pupils behave respectfully and disagree well. They understand how to have their own opinion without dismissing different attitudes to their own. They listen to one another and do not judge or ridicule. Consequently, school is a safe place for pupils to grow in confidence. Pupils recognise that the school's Christian vision supports them in developing these attributes as they want to 'shine brightly'. They are kind to one another and show an empathy that has enabled them to develop into advocates for change. Pupils are confident to voice their own concerns and raise awareness of issues that worry them or raise money for those in need. Pupils demonstrate their understanding and concern for wider global societies. They do this by engaging in social action to raise funds for Ukraine and also recognising the power of prayer in giving hope. They advocate for change to protect our planet. As 'eco-warriors', they

promote recycling and cutting back on plastics. Pupil voice is always valued. Their ideas and suggestions are welcomed and lead to changes at school. They run clubs and take their responsibilities towards others seriously, so that everyone has the opportunity to shine. Older children show care and consideration for those in the younger years, giving the school a strong sense of family.

Collective worship is an inclusive and invitational experience. The Christian vision is expressed through the associated values chosen as a theme within worship but also in song and prayer. Staff and pupils are welcomed into the hall for worship by pupils and music, setting a calm and reflective atmosphere. Pupils understand and can explain God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is represented symbolically on their worship table and around the school by the cross, Bible and candle. Pupils participate in worship with enthusiasm. They are further inspired by the stories they hear, to live according to their Christian vision and its associated values. Those in the 'worship crew' take on regular responsibilities such as readings, prayers and monitoring the impact of worship upon pupils. As a result of their evaluations, pupils suggest changes that lead to further improvements. Pupils find celebration assembly uplifting when they celebrate how they 'shine brightly'. Singing is enthusiastic and joyful. A favourite song, chosen by the school community, is 'My Lighthouse', as it echoes the theological roots of their vision. Prayer is reflective and respectful, without compulsion. Pupils are proud of their school prayer which they wrote together and uses the imagery of Jesus as our lighthouse.

RE is carefully planned and well led. It is given the same status as other academic subjects. New learning builds upon key points previously covered and is assessed at the end of each unit. This enables teachers to identify what pupils are learning in RE. Pupils learn about core Christian theological concepts and consider their impact. Whilst their curriculum is extensive, it is not sufficiently developed to explore Christianity as a living global faith in depth. Pupils value their learning and develop good religious literacy. They discuss different religions and worldviews knowledgeably and with respect. The curriculum contributes significantly towards broadening pupils understanding of the diversity of religions and worldviews. School is a safe place for pupils to critically reflect upon their own beliefs.

Swaffham Bulbeck Church of England Primary School is a good school with an established Christian vision. Its biblical roots are proudly remembered by all members of the school community and enables all pupils and adults to 'shine brightly'.

Information			
School	Swaffham Bulbeck Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	13 June 2023
URN	146469	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Ely	Pupils on roll	100
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Helen Bartley		
Chair of Governors	Christopher Goodfellow		
Inspector	Christina Galletly	No.	975