



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

Cherry Hinton Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	High Street, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, CB1 9HH

### School vision

We want children to flourish like oaks of righteousness – rooted in the school’s long-standing values of agape love, courage and thankfulness which are acted out in all that we do. Our school is about transformation – making life better, different than it would otherwise be. In this welcoming, inclusive space every single diverse member is loved. And in response, children run through the school gate excited to get going.

Based on ‘Love God with heart, soul, mind and strength – and your neighbour as you love yourself.’  
Matthew 22: 37-39

### School strengths

- The school’s inclusive Christian vision, rooted within biblical teachings, has been carefully considered to meet everyone's needs. It is lived out through its embedded values so that pupils and adults thrive.
- Each individual within the school community is known and understood well. Support is focused and timely, ensuring all will shine.
- Collective worship is enriched by the school’s relationship with its local churches. These strong partnerships give a better understanding of how everyone can live by the school's values and a meaningful context for prayer.
- The provision to support mental health and wellbeing is seen as a priority because of the vision. Care is both practical and compassionate, ensuring pupils and adults can succeed in relationships based on Christian love.
- Religious Education (RE) is effectively led and pupils flourish through the balanced and carefully structured RE curriculum. Pupils enjoy their learning and recognise the importance of the subject.

### Areas for development

- Further develop a shared understanding of spirituality. This is so that opportunities for spiritual growth occur within worship and across the curriculum more consistently.
- Embed a regular systematic evaluation of all aspects of the Christian vision’s impact. As a result observations should lead to further improvements as a Church school.

## Inspection findings

This school embodies its Christian vision, through the love and care that it shows for its entire community. Leaders, staff and pupils express the biblical roots of their vision, from the teachings of Jesus. The school lives this out through the three core values of agape love, courage and thankfulness. These are long standing and passionately upheld, being relevant, meaningful and inclusive. This school has a diverse population representing over 14 nationalities. The vision and its associated values, align well with those of its families, regardless of their faith or belief. Each child is seen as an individual, so that they flourish. The school's Christian vision drives decisions and policies. Leaders have received diocesan support, which has ensured effective professional development of staff. Governors visit the school regularly and identify where they see the vision. However, monitoring of its impact needs refinement, so that governors' observations contribute to the development of this Church school.

A broad range of learning experiences, that include visits and visitors, contribute to helping pupils make links in their learning. The enquiry-based curriculum fosters curiosity and provides opportunities to ask big questions. Pupils feel school is a safe place to explore their own values and viewpoints. There are opportunities for awe and wonder in learning, within and outside the classroom. Currently, there is no shared approach to spirituality and consequently it is under developed within the curriculum. Opportunities to develop spiritual growth through deeper self-reflection are therefore limited. The support for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is finely tuned to meet the needs of each individual. Support staff are equipped to meet the needs of each pupil through their breadth of skills and focus upon equity of provision.

Collective Worship is inclusive, so that pupils engage on the level that is right for them, whatever their faith or belief. Pupils with SEND are effectively supported to take part. Worship is a time to further understand the school's Christian vision, values and to learn from the teachings of Jesus. It is enriched by visits from local clergy, who represent different Christian denominations. They celebrate key festivals in St Andrew's Church, which further enhances the provision of collective worship. Pupils enjoy singing and often find the song choices uplifting. Staff speak of worship being a joyful and reflective time. A recently formed 'worship gang' work with the vicar and her dog to prepare for worship. Pupils benefit from this involvement as it builds their confidence. Worship is structured and involves elements of Anglican tradition. Prayer is invitational within worship and spontaneous prayer is supported around the school in prayer corners. Typically, there are moments of reflection within or after worship. However, the impact is limited by an insufficient awareness of spiritual development.

Relationships throughout the school are underpinned by their Christian vision of love for all. Staff unconsciously model how this vision looks through the strong bond that exists between them. Leaders recognise that until their pupils feel loved, safe and secure, they will not be ready to learn. As a result, pupil and adult wellbeing is a priority. School leaders and governors are committed to providing good mental health and family support. The breaktime buddy bench and peer mediators adds another dimension to the love and care shown for one another. They ensure pupils are not lonely and help others to disagree well. Every day, staff and pupils come together outside, to run, jog or walk their daily mile. This is called 'ACT Active' and is a representation of the school's inclusive vision. As adults and pupils move around the grounds together, they talk, reflect or just enjoy their outside space. This reinforces a deep-rooted sense of the school's vision.

Pupils have numerous opportunities to learn about issues of justice and responsibility for others. Staff and pupils in school are mindful of global events that are impacting upon their extended families around the world. The curriculum encourages opportunities for discussions about challenges that people face. For example, learning about famous people who have been refugees.

Pupils have raised money to provide backpacks for children affected by earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. Pupils also learn about key historical figures, such as Rosa Parks. They are already making a difference and understand that they can be agents of social change. Older pupils who form the eco-warriors group are actively involved in making a difference within their school. For example, they have been instrumental in changing the menu to reduce food waste. Older pupils recognise how the school's vision positively shapes their thinking and actions.

RE is led knowledgeably and with enthusiasm. This ensures the weekly lessons are balanced, well-structured and build upon prior learning. A range of religion and worldviews are effectively explored at depth. Lessons are successfully supplemented by RE days which can involve, for example, visits to different places of worship or a special day in school. The recent 'Diversity Day' gave families the opportunity to learn from one another about their different countries and cultures. RE has a high status at this school. Pupils value the opportunity to learn more about a range of religions and worldviews, as this helps them understand their friends' lives better. They benefit from the inclusive nature of learning from one another. When their own religious faith is the focus, they add more detail to class learning and gain confidence in being the expert. Staff are well trained and encourage deeper thinking from their pupils. This enables pupils to develop an understanding of the diversity of faiths and beliefs.

The inspection findings indicate that Cherry Hinton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	16 November 2023	URN	110801
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	171
Diocese	Ely		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Sally Haiselden		
Chair	Kate Baker		
Inspector	Christina Galletly	No.	975