

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Kendall Church of England Primary School, Colchester	
Address	Recreation Road, Colchester, CO1 2HH

School vision
<p>We strive for a bright and wonderful future! Jeremiah 29:11</p> <p>In Christ we have plans that our children should prosper and thrive, offering them hope and a future.</p> <p>We nurture creativity and confidence, and develop knowledge and understanding through a curriculum designed to promote purposeful learning wrapped in awe, wonder and respect for one another and our treasured environment; that all can live together in peace.</p> <p>Our relationships with one another and nature are born of kindness compassion and friendship; they are cherished and dwell in our hearts through faith, and like the trees in our forest, are rooted and grounded in God's love.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded Christian vision enables pupils and adults to flourish. It is the 'golden thread' that ensures that everyone works together to secure 'a bright and wonderful future.' • Leaders are determined and aspirational in providing opportunities for all. As a result, conscious curriculum decisions have been made to shape the learning experience for all pupils. This includes those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and the most vulnerable so that they 'prosper and thrive.' • The outdoor learning offer is central to the school's vision and values. It promotes opportunities for pupils and adults to develop spiritually. Through the awe and wonder in nature around them, pupils' treasure and respect the environment. They are passionate about being agents of change in the natural world. • The Christian vision supports leaders in creating a culture in which everyone is valued and are able to live well together. Inclusivity and equality are central to the ethos of the school, where differences are respected and celebrated. • Religious Education (RE) is well led and managed. Leaders have ensured that the curriculum is carefully planned. There are opportunities for pupils to learn about a range of world religions and world views including Christianity. Spiritual development is intrinsic within the curriculum.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways in which the good practice in spiritual development, through outdoor learning, can be shared across the Diocese of Chelmsford and beyond. • Deepen pupils' understanding and independent use of religious language and vocabulary. This is so they can apply knowledge of Christianity and other world faiths to their daily lives and experiences.

Inspection findings

Kendall's deeply embedded Christian vision ensures that all members of the school community strive for a 'bright and wonderful future' together in which all can flourish. The vision is well known and lived out through the opportunities that all pupils and adults in the school are given. Leaders' passion and determination that the pupils at Kendall are immersed in a purposeful and fulfilling learning environment, underpins monitoring practice. Policies and procedures are rooted in the vision for all to 'prosper and thrive'. As a result, pupils make strong progress during their time at Kendall. Staff are also supported and encouraged to grow professionally through continuous professional development. They are given the time and reflective space to complete a range of courses. Thus, the vision underpins the flourishing of the whole community.

Driven by its Christian vision, Kendall is highly inclusive. Adults make purposeful adaptations to the curriculum to support all its pupils including those with additional needs and/or disabilities. The wider curriculum has been carefully planned and sequenced to make the most of every opportunity and nothing is left to chance. Extra-curricular clubs enhance the provision. All pupils are able to take part in a range of clubs, including additional tuition. The curriculum is shaped around the forest school provision where learning outside of the classroom is given high priority. Pupils thrive in the natural environment at Kendall where they have opportunities to develop their confidence, team building, resilience, and communication skills. This is supported through a range of outdoor and adventurous activities such as high-ropes, leap of faith and climbing. Spirituality is intrinsic to the curriculum. For example, pupils are given 'sit spot' time outside where they can 'think and be calm in God's creation'. The language of spirituality is well-developed amongst the pupils and staff. The shared understanding of 'OWs, WOWs and NOWs' has enabled pupils to deeply reflect on the world around them. The OWs represent things that could cause suffering, WOWs are the awe and wonder moments and NOWs are about being present in the moment.

Collective Worship is valued by everyone at Kendall and follows the church calendar. Pupils take an active role in worship by lighting candles, leading, and saying the prayers. They select readings, perform dramatic re-enactments of Bible stories, and choose hymns and songs. This helps them to develop critical leadership skills. Members of the worship committee also evaluate collective worship daily and this is fed back to the collective worship lead. This supports pupils in their understanding of how collective worship should be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring. Pupils comment that 'it [collective worship] helps us to be happy, telling people about God's world.' Kendall has a close relationship with its local parish church St Stephen's which serves the local context well. St Stephen's provides pastoral as well as spiritual support through its partnership with the school. Thought pieces are shared beyond worship and pupils are keen to reflect on and complete these at home. For example, pupils were asked to draw a plaster. On this, they wrote about things that have hurt them in the past or hurt them still. This linked to a collective worship where they looked at some 'OWs' about current suffering in the world. This supports pupils in their spiritual development. Thus, they can draw connections between collective worship and their lives.

Relationships at Kendall are born of kindness, compassion, and friendship. Therefore, leaders give wellbeing a high priority. Counselling services are available for pupils and adults. The local church also provides chaplaincy when needed. Well established systems of pastoral care are in place. Adults know the pupils and their families well, ensuring that the right support can be put in place at the right time. Parents value the care and compassion that pupils have received from the school during times of difficulty. Kendall is an inclusive school where everyone shows respect to one another. Inequality in all forms is challenged and differences are celebrated so that they can live well together. Pupils say that poor behaviour is rare. The value of forgiveness is lived out when there are

differences that need to be overcome. Outdoor learning enables staff and pupils the time and space to develop outside of the classroom which promotes their wellbeing. Pupils use the image of the clam to explain how they can overcome challenges. 'Sometimes you take in things that aren't good for you and this can hurt. With God's love you can stop hurting and make something beautiful like a pearl.'

Pupils speak confidently about challenging injustice, relating this to Jesus' life and being a good role model to others. They take part in whole school projects such as Black History Month and Pride Day. The school is also a Stonewall School Champion. Through these experiences, pupils understand and celebrate diversity in all its forms. Pupils lead an active eco-committee which takes part in a range of activities. These include local litter picks and the 'caretaking' of the prayer garden. Pupils understand the responsibility they have to take care of the environment around them. In partnership with the local church, pupils have grown vegetables for use within the soup for the slow cooker project which supports families. Pupils have also collected donations for the local foodbank through their recent harvest worship. These experiences contribute to their development as advocates within their community.

Underpinned by the strong Christian vision, RE is well-resourced and managed. Leaders have ensured that RE is consistently taught well using the locally agreed syllabus and the 'Understanding Christianity' materials. The RE leader has planned and delivered a range of training opportunities for staff. As a result, staff are confident in their own subject knowledge of RE and enjoy teaching it. Pupils speak with passion about their learning. However they cannot yet independently use religious language and vocabulary. This limits the application of knowledge to their daily lives and experiences. Pupils enjoy lessons which enable them to 'think about something bigger than ourselves.' They flourish through a range of learning opportunities which are sequential and well thought through. This allows continual links between RE, the wider curriculum and school vision and values. Well-developed RE working walls support pupils in their learning journeys.

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

Information			
Inspection date	30 November 2023	URN	115064
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	210
Diocese	Chelmsford		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher/Acting Headteacher	Mrs Clare French/Mr Lewis Barrett-Rodger		
Chair	Mr Ian Stickley		
Inspector	Karen Jones	No.	2236