

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

William Westley Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Mill Lane, Whittlesford, Cambridge, CB22 4NE

School vision
<p>The school's vision 'Let your light shine' is from Matthew 5:16. A benefactor William Westley, in a charitable act, gave money to fund the education of the children of Whittlesford. This vision is a response and recognition of that legacy. It is a commitment to shining a light, using talents and skills for the benefit of others. This is seen as a continuation of William Westley's generosity.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision and values are based on biblical teaching and understood by the school community. Dedicated senior leaders, governors and staff drive the vision forward so that it has a transformational impact. • The school is an inclusive and caring community where everyone is accepted. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are enabled to succeed. • Pupils are encouraged to take on responsibility and to become advocates for positive change. This impacts the school and the wider community. • The school's spiritual life in collective worship is a strength. This time provides a breadth of opportunities to experience different modes of worship. • A recent review has brought clarity to the provision and profile of religious education (RE). Dedicated days have been enriching and valuable for the whole school community.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further opportunities for pupil involvement in collective worship so that they have an opportunity to plan and evaluate the provision. • Continue to develop training for staff to increase the impact and effectiveness of the RE curriculum.
Inspection findings
<p>William Westley Church of England School is a compassionate and inclusive school. The Christian vision builds on the legacy of William Westley for the children in Whittlesford. The vision drives every aspect of school life and has helped the school develop. It is led by a deeply committed and compassionate leadership team who are active in their pursuit to encourage pupils and staff to flourish. The school values of kindness, positivity, celebration, self-worth, respect and self-control meaningfully shape pupil experience. They are understood and continually referenced. Pupils</p>

articulate an understanding of what the school's vision 'Let your light shine' means to them. They explain that it is not only about their own accomplishments but about what they can do for others in the school and in the wider community. Relationships are prioritised. Leaders ensure that the vision considers the needs of staff. As a result, this has a demonstrable effect on the school community as staff feel that they are valued and enabled.

The vision is reflected in the broad and rich curriculum and extra-curricular provision. The school has sought to develop a variety of opportunities to support each pupil to thrive. Music is an example of this through various activities including orchestra, choir and individual instrument lessons. A breadth of creative events are planned for and this develops pupil confidence. These include extra-curricular activities, visits, visitors and after-school clubs. The school leadership prioritises the valuing of each individual in the school community. This was demonstrated in the school's winning contribution to the Cambridgeshire film awards. The commitment to seeing the vision impact all in the school community is also evident in the support of those who are more vulnerable and SEND pupils. Provision for individuals is tailored to have a positive impact on specific needs. Art therapy, booster teaching sessions and music lessons are part of these activities. Celebrating achievement of both academic and non-academic accomplishments has created an affirming school culture that encourages all pupils to strive to be their best.

The daily act of collective worship is central to the day and valued by the school community. It is a spiritual opportunity that includes stillness and reflection. Music joyfully enhances collective worship. Pupils participate enthusiastically, especially in their singing which enriches their experience. Everyone uses British Sign Language to sign the school prayer. Collective worship is interactive, engaging and provides a range of invitational opportunities. Individual pupils take on differing roles: reading, saying a prayer and lighting a candle. Friday celebration assemblies are also enjoyed by parents and carers in which 'Let our Light Shine' certificates recognise and celebrate the individual achievements of pupils. While there are collective worship leaders, the regular opportunity for pupils to evaluate collective worship is not embedded. The school benefits from excellent partnerships with local churches. The local clergy are active in their support of the school and lead collective worship weekly. They also lead celebration events as part of the church calendar.

The culture of William Westley school is an outworking of its intrinsic Christian vision. Pupils and staff are welcomed, loved and accepted for who they are, which in turn allows them to shine. Pupils take pride in their school and in living out the vision. Year 6 caring buddies view their responsibility of looking after younger pupils in Reception as an important one. They strive to carry out their roles with thoughtfulness. Interactions between pupils show their support for each other and are affirming. Inclusion is a priority at the school and practical support to aid wellbeing is evident. The recent training for mental health first aiders and emotional literacy support assistants means the school is more readily equipped to support individuals in the school community. Pupils enjoy time for stillness and calm in the sensory garden and in the quiet reflection area. Parents are seeing their children benefit from gaining skills to prioritise wellbeing. The school and church work in partnership to build positive relationships with parents and carers to offer support. The pre-owned clothes shop is an example. The partnership with local clergy has an impact on school culture. They model compassionate support in school and that extends to offering pastoral care for staff. Staff are celebrated for their accomplishments and the impact has created a culture of mutual support for each other.

Pupils demonstrate responsibility for themselves and others and have a desire to make a difference. This is evident through the school's activities which include the 'eco council' who promote understanding of global issues and have engaged the local community in positive social action. The rainforest café, the harvest sale for a partner school in Botswana, and the Lenten challenges all encourage pupils to be courageous advocates. This compassion for others modelled in school drives

pupil commitment to make a difference for others.

The provision and profile of RE has undergone change and is being further refined. In part, this has been achieved by working in partnership with the Ely Diocese. Changes to the RE curriculum mean that now the school only uses 'Emmanuel Project' units for all RE teaching. This has provided a greater sense of clarity to the RE content. The scope of the curriculum provides challenge and pupils are encouraged to be curious and reflective learners. Pupils value the opportunity to learn about a breadth of worldviews and explore 'big questions'. Although the appreciation of Christianity as a global faith is less evident. The RE activity days across the whole school on prayer, food in faith and light have had a positive impact on the school community. They have resulted in a sharing of knowledge across the staff body. These days utilise existing expertise in the school to provide rich opportunities for staff development. There is thorough monitoring of RE including pupil interviews, book scrutiny and learning walks. The impact of this is school leaders who understand the effectiveness of RE and in turn have made changes to improve provision. Staff subject knowledge in delivering the RE curriculum is not consistent across the school.

The inspection findings indicate that William Westley Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	7 December 2023	URN	110795
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	185
Diocese	Ely		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Andrew Westcott		
Chair	Chloe Landucci		
Inspector	Claire Gibson	No.	2227