



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

| <b>Mears Ashby Church of England Primary School</b>   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Address   | North Street, Mears Ashby, NN6 0DW |
| School vision   |                                    |
| Jesus said 'I have come that they may have life, and have life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10)   |                                    |
| School strengths  |                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders have created a well-articulated and deeply embedded Christian vision that is woven into every aspect of school life. This enables all individuals to live life to the full and flourish.</li> <li>• Strong partnerships exist between Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (the trust), diocese and school. These ensure the learning experiences offered enable pupils to achieve well and have life in all its fullness.</li> <li>• Thriving relationships with local clergy and Christian groups support the school to provide inspirational collective worship for all individuals. This provides treasured time for the school community to come together for prayer, spiritual reflection and celebration.</li> <li>• Strong leadership of religious education (RE) ensures that the curriculum is effective and supports teachers, so they teach well. Consequently, pupils learn well and make progress.</li> <li>• Embedded values rooted in the vision have enabled leaders to create a loving and caring culture. This ensures relationships are positive and everyone is valued and nurtured. Differences are celebrated and as a result all can grow and flourish.</li> </ul> |                                    |
| Areas for development   |                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of assessment in RE. This will ensure pupils receive the highest quality RE provision and make the best possible progress.</li> <li>• Ensure further opportunities across the wider curriculum are planned for to extend the school's shared understanding of spirituality. This will help to enrich the personal spiritual experiences for all.</li> <li>• Offer further opportunities for pupils to actively initiate social change making a difference beyond their local community. This will enable them to understand the impact they have had helping others to live life in all its fullness.</li> </ul>  |                                    |
| Inspection findings   |                                    |
| <p>The Christian vision of enabling all 'to live life in all its fullness' is deeply rooted at Mears Ashby School. It works in harmony with the trust to provide a solid foundation through which pupils and adults can flourish. Governors effectively monitor and evaluate the implementation of the vision and values. They know the school well and conscientiously guide its strategic development, making</p>   |                                    |



changes that lead to improvement. This ensures everyone is fully equipped to take advantage of life's opportunities. For this small school, strong partnerships contribute a great deal to its success. Highly effective relationships with the trust alongside collaboration with the diocese and church are fruitful.

The vision inspired by 'life in all its fullness' is woven throughout the imaginative learning experiences offered. Leaders ensure vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive the best support possible. They successfully access the curriculum because personalised support enables them to 'be the best they can.' Enriching activities such as the residential and sports conferences offer opportunities for pupils to be successful. The weekly prayer group, peace garden and classroom reflection areas provide places for quiet contemplation. The prayer tree enables pupils to write prayers in a respectful and loving environment. Spiritual growth is enhanced through a range of activities such as welly walks. However, these are not explicitly planned for as part of the wider curriculum. The school has recently agreed an understanding of spirituality which is in its initial stages of implementation.

The school's Christian vision is at the heart of collective worship. Year 6 pupils have additional opportunities for deepening spirituality by actively planning and leading worship. They begin by lighting a candle and placing the cross and Bible on the table representing the Holy Trinity. All are welcomed to join in worship and choose to say responses that demonstrate their commitment to the school vision. Everyone is invited to join in with The Lord's Prayer and prayers, allowing time and for individual reflection. Parents appreciate the opportunity to join Friday celebration worship and to attend services at All Saints Church. The connections between school, home and beyond are strengthened by the new vision and values passport. This shared understanding of the school values to use at home contributes to the spiritual development and flourishing for all.

Local clergy and visitors enrich the worship and inspire all individuals to live life to the full. Visits to the church are valued and support the understanding of Christian festivals and the example of Jesus' teaching. Pupils have a strong knowledge of Bible stories which reflects the high quality of worship provided. They remember stories they have heard and explain how they relate to the school's values and their everyday lives. For example, they rightly say, 'The Good Samaritan shows how we should help and care for each other.' Pupils talk with respect for the different views and beliefs of others celebrating these differences.

As a small school the vision creates a powerful sense of community where everyone is known, nurtured and cared for. Pupils demonstrate values of courage, friendship and compassion and as a result feel safe, included and valued. They are clear they could approach any staff member with concerns and trust that these would be acted on. They listen to the ideas and views of others. For example, during lunchtime football the decisions made by the sports crew and referees are respected and final.

The Christian vision empowers leaders to prioritise pupil and staff mental health and wellbeing. The wellbeing ambassador dedicated to providing pastoral support ensures all individuals are cherished. Staff clearly enjoy working at the school and offer support and acts of kindness for each other. The range of networking and training provided by the trust ensures that adults can flourish professionally. As a result, staff are knowledgeable and committed to ensuring all pupils can reach their potential. New pupils and families are quickly welcomed into the warm embrace of this loving school. An enthusiastic and hardworking parent teacher association contributes greatly to school life. The wider community are welcomed to joint events such as Macmillan mornings, Wombles litter picking and decorating the 'telephone box.' This ensures that the Christian vision continues to be a living reality for all.

Pupils aspire to become leaders of the worship team, sports crew and members of the school council. They know they have a voice which is listened to and valued. For example, councillors are currently working towards getting the tadpole pond repaired in the peace garden. Pupils support national charities such as Children in Need and participate annually in Race for Life. At Harvest they donate to the Hope Centre foodbank. They recognise this action is to help other people who do not have the same things as them. The effective use of resources enables a greater understanding of global issues. This helps pupils to realise ways in which they can tackle injustice and make a difference. However, they do not yet fully understand the impact of their actions. Opportunities to initiate social action independently beyond the local community are limited.

Driven by the vision, RE has high priority across the school. The diocese scheme and other specialist resources ensure the curriculum is well planned and highly effective. A strong dedicated RE leader makes certain teachers are well supported through diocesan training that is up-to-date and relevant. Teachers adapt lessons using a step by step approach to support learning. However, pupils are less clear on knowing how well they are doing in RE and what to improve. Work around pupil assessment in RE is in its initial stages of implementation. Challenging big questions are explored that spark deep thinking and individual responses. RE days, activities and displays are creative enriching the learning. Pupils are passionate about their RE learning. They rightly say ‘we learn about religions so we respect other cultures and don’t offend people.’ They confidently articulate their knowledge of different world views and major festivals such as Easter and Diwali. A variety of visitors and visits to places of worship such Peterborough Cathedral, a mosque and synagogue enhance teaching and learning. A clear vision ensures pupils have a thorough knowledge of Christianity and other world views. Consequently, they make good progress and thrive in RE.

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

| Information                              |                                      |                |        |
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| Inspection date                          | 31 January 2024                      | URN            | 143950 |
| VC/VA/Academy                            | Academy                              | Pupils on roll | 84     |
| Diocese                                  | Peterborough                         |                |        |
| MAT/Federation                           | Peterborough Diocese Education Trust |                |        |
| Executive Headteacher and Head of School | Elizabeth Crofts and Rae Green       |                |        |
| Chair                                    | Julie Evans                          |                |        |
| Inspector                                | Paula Shaw                           | No.            | 2245   |