

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England VA Primary School, Kettering	
Address	Fuller Street, Kettering, NN16 OJH
School vision	
<p>'Do everything in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14 Love yourself, Love others, Love the world.</p> <p>Through our Christian Faith, rooted in love, we empower all to be the designer and driver of their own learning journey, enabling all to reach their full potential. Ambitious, confident reflective thinkers enable others to flourish, actively and positively contributing to our world.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driven by excellent leadership at all levels, St Mary's has a well-embedded Christian vision. It is clearly understood and articulated by all, guiding everything the school does. • There is an exceptional culture of care and compassion, driven by the vision. This enables all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), to flourish. The school's self-designed approach to metacognition is instrumental in supporting this. • The religious education (RE) curriculum is ambitious and well devised. Children achieve well, demonstrated by their depth of understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths. They use a breadth of key vocabulary well when talking about belief. • Collective worship is inspirational, inclusive and inspiring. Provision is well planned and enables all children to be actively engaged. • The Christian vision drives relationships within the school community. All 'do everything in love' so they are respected and treated well. This extends to the wider community where parents also clearly feel supported and valued. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop the school environment so that spaces outside provide further opportunities for reflection, prayer and spiritual growth. • Embed a shared language and understanding of spirituality for staff, governors and pupils. This will enable spiritual development opportunities to be further enhanced. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>St Mary's is a welcoming and highly inclusive school. The clear Christian vision is lived out in every aspect of its life. Leaders ensure it is at the heart of all activities, creating a culture in which all can thrive. The school is a vibrant, attractive learning environment where love is lived out in every aspect of life. The vision is inclusive and is translated into the 31 different languages spoken in the community. It is expressed simply, which means it is easily understood and articulated by all. Care for individuals, the community and the wider world is the key message, underpinned by scripture. Governors are highly supportive and decisions made are reviewed through the lense of the vision.</p>	

Leaders at all levels are relentless in ensuring that it is at the forefront of all decision making. This results in a culture where everyone feels valued. Consequently, practice continually improves and all are able to flourish.

The Christian vision underpins the school curriculum, supporting pupils to 'be the best they can be'. Pupils grow because learning is tailored to their needs. The emphasis on love results in a community where everyone works together to achieve the best possible outcomes. The curriculum focusses on enquiry and curiosity around 'big questions'. These opportunities for spirituality are woven throughout learning, offering times for reflection. Personalised personal development is supported through 'My Amazing Journey' (MAJ). This empowers pupils to take responsibility for their own learning journey through regular discussions with staff. Leaders remove barriers to learning, especially for those deemed vulnerable or those with SEND. The inclusion team are attentive to the differing needs of families and individuals. As a result, pupils who have additional needs or are disadvantaged are supported and all are able to flourish. This commitment to inclusion extends to the offering of over 50 free extra-curricular clubs.

Collective worship is invitational, inclusive and embedded at the heart of the school. It is strongly based in biblical teaching, which is communicated in a lively way. Leaders ensure collective worship is an expression of the Christian vision and values. Pupils and adults flourish as they are provided with meaningful opportunities to develop spiritually. The lighting of three candles enables everyone who attends to appreciate God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Strong links are made back to the classroom where reflection areas are used well. The prayer table outside the hall at lunchtime inspires pupils engagement. Inclusivity of those of different cultures is enriched by sharing prayers in their own language. These are also projected as an English translation to be read alongside the spoken word. Weekly classroom worship is linked to the Bible quote for each week. This also allows pupils to engage with an 'I wonder' question. The worship warriors are instrumental in choosing the Bible stories for these sessions as well as helping lead. Training from the diocese has been used to develop this group, who, in turn, support in other schools. There are effective spiritual development opportunities in the curriculum, collective worship and around the school. Creating a shared language around this to encapsulate the work of the school is in the earlier stages of development.

This is a school where all are truly loved. Driven by the vision, staff are tireless in their efforts to include and support everyone. Pupils champion the need to 'do everything in love'. This motivates them to care for one another. The vision helps them to make positive choices about how they live. This is illustrated by a pupil commenting 'we don't need school rules, we have the vision'. Pupils enjoy attending St Mary's because the adults know and love them as individuals. They are treated with patience and unfailing respect. As a result, they are inclusive, caring and respectful. Those who have moved to the school have flourished due to the impact of the vision. Bespoke support for individual development has been transformational, and is highly appreciated by parents. Treating everyone with love includes families, for whom leaders go above and beyond to support in times of personal need. Mental health and wellbeing of staff, pupils and families is prioritised. Staff value the care that is shown towards them. This is exemplified by the way in which leaders make time for everyone. The school offers a strong sense of community and togetherness.

Justice is central to the work of the school as one of the core Christian values. The vision inspires children to 'love others, love the world'. Pupils champion the rights of individuals. They use this knowledge to make sure others are treated well. They clearly articulate that justice means everyone is equal, rightly stating that it is 'standing up for others and yourself'. They learn to be responsible citizens in a variety of ways. Carefully chosen 'amazing ambassadors' promote respect, aspiration, and an understanding of justice. As a result, pupils talk about how these individuals inspire them. The culture of love leads to a strong sense of responsibility towards others. Pupils challenge when they feel something is not right and are agents of change. An example of this is working alongside

the local community to clean up the local park. Leaders are mindful of developing justice and responsibility through actions. They learn that they can have a positive impact on the lives of others through offering support and giving.

RE is highly effective. It is prioritised as a core subject and leaders ensure that it remains a high priority. This can be seen in its inclusion in MAJ. The engaging curriculum combines the local syllabus with effective use of the specialist resources. Engaging lessons are delivered, resulting in pupils being enthusiastic and confident in class. As a result, they have a depth of understanding of Christianity and a range world faiths. They easily make connections with their learning and living in the world today. Lessons encourage everyone to put forward ideas and the views of all are respected. Pupils are expected to think as theologians, social scientists and philosophers ensuring they reflect deeply about their learning. Work in RE is highly regarded by the diocese and good practice is shared with other schools.

Consistently high standards in RE teaching and learning leads to all pupils making good progress. They are enthusiastic and curious in class. They make impressive links between current and prior learning. The quality of personal reflection is high. Good use is made of assessment to determine next steps and targets for RE are included in their MAJ.

The inspection findings indicate that St Mary's Church of England VA Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	24 January 2024	URN	139460
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	261
Diocese	Peterborough		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Diane Wright		
Chair	Mark Broughton		
Inspector	Megan Davis	No.	2212