

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

Harlaxton Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Swinehill, Harlaxton, Grantham, NG32 1HT
School vision	
<p>With God, together we can Learn, Encourage, Aspire, Respect and Nurture.</p> <p>We believe in a collaborative approach – developing the whole child by developing the whole community together.</p> <p>And the child grew strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him Luke 2:40</p> <p>As an inclusive church school, we use positive and consistent expectations to help all members of our community to flourish. We work towards achieving excellence in all we do, and we recognise the value of everyone in our school and seek to enable all to become agents of positive change in the world.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harlaxton's Christian vision is intrinsic in every aspect of school life. Deeply embedded values, known as habits, are lived out by many.</li> <li>• Leaders foster very strong partnerships, most notably, with other Church schools. This creates a rich culture of working together enhancing the flourishing of both pupils and adults.</li> <li>• Pastoral care and provision for those with additional needs is exceptionally strong. It is well led and many families choose this school because of the highly regarded, individual support given to pupils. They thrive as valued members of this tight knit and very supportive school community.</li> <li>• Collective worship is enriched by the involvement of different church congregations and Christian partnerships. This contributes positively to a developing spiritual awareness as the school community experiences a range of worship styles.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a more strategic framework for monitoring and evaluating the school's Christian vision. This will enable leaders to further understand and articulate its impact on pupils and adults.</li> <li>• Embed the language of spirituality, currently used in collective worship, across the wider curriculum. This is in order to provide greater opportunities to enhance spiritual thinking.</li> </ul>	

## Inspection findings

Harlaxton's deep Christian foundation is celebrated and lived out. The school community distinctively acknowledges that 'With God, together we can learn'. Leaders have thoughtfully rooted the vision in a Bible verse that focuses on the early life of Jesus. They champion how important these formative years are and the influence of having nurturing people in the lives of young children. Intrinsic in every aspect, the vision ensures that many flourish as pupils and adults develop together.

There is a real sense of unity in this vibrant, supportive community. They are empowered in the belief that 'with God, together all can learn, encourage, aspire, respect and nurture'. Learning aims linked to each of the letters in 'learn' are promoted. They securely underpin the impact of the deeply embedded values known as habits. As a result, these biblically based principles are a central thread woven through daily life at Harlaxton. Strong and positive relationships are deeply rooted at every level. Influential partnerships are fostered inspiring further flourishing. An affiliation with a cluster of Church schools successfully generates a rich culture of working together. As a federation, creative use of staff and resources across both sites enables a real sense that together the two are stronger. Leaders prioritise Christian distinctiveness in development planning. However, reflecting on the impact of the vision is often implied in their monitoring rather than having a strategic aim. As a consequence, there is sometimes a lack of clarity and focus in their evaluations. Effective links and training events with the diocese make sure that the vision continues to be a living reality in leadership decisions.

Curriculum provision is crafted by the school's vision and the pupils that it serves. Harlaxton is distinct and diverse due to many attending from outside the village. Therefore, thought provoking and challenging global questions form the basis of themed units. Through its curriculum, Harlaxton is empowering a positive awareness that together pupils are part of a far wider world. They aspire to be the best they can be. Rewards are significant in acknowledging the outworking of the vision in classroom work. Influential, bespoke provision for those with additional needs ensures everyone has the targeted interventions necessary for their learning. Other vulnerable groups flourish as a result of loving and empathetic support. However, a shared language being used to express spirituality in collective worship is less evident within wider learning opportunities.

Nowhere is the 'with God' element of the vision more palpable than in collective worship. Themes are effectively planned around a deepening understanding of the biblically based habits. There is a real sense of reverence as classes quietly prepare themselves for this special time. Artwork depicting several elements of the Christian vision is a reminder of what is truly the heartbeat of their school. A traditional Anglican welcome is recited with great familiarity. Prayer is invitational with spiritual flourishing evident as eagerness is shown to openly share spontaneous responses. A common language of 'ow, wow and now' is developing. This allows the community to confidently express themselves on a deeper level. Regular inspirational contributions by members of different church congregations positively strengthen a developing spiritual awareness. Experiences are enriched by a range of worship styles. Representatives from a partner Christian organisation have worked closely with pupil leaders. This empowers them to independently lead worship that deepens their own spiritual understanding, whilst enriching experiences for their peers. Adults appreciate quiet times to pause and reflect, enhancing their own development. Parents value invitations to school services in St Mary and St Peter's church. Attendance at these events gives a greater understanding of the impact of the Christian vision in the lives of their children.

Individuals are thriving because they encounter a nurturing environment where 'with God' anything is possible. A rich culture of dignity and respect has been successfully established, recognising that everyone is unique. Pupils behave well because they are actively reflecting the 'Harlaxton's habits' in their own lives. Pastoral care for those with additional needs is exceptionally strong and well led.

Significantly, families choose to come here because leaders are proactive in identifying needs and tailoring support to individuals. Parents are, quite rightly, overwhelmingly positive about the care and support their children receive. This is where the vision of 'together we can' is lived out at its deepest level. Effective partnerships greatly strengthen provision and expertise. An early morning 'sensory circuits' session reduces anxiety and is effective in increasing attendance. Supervisors in the lunchtime 'Wellbeing Hub' deal promptly with emerging issues contributing to positive behaviours. They are efficiently supported by adept pupil wellbeing champions. Leaders are mindful of adult workload. A very stable, highly motivated staff team has been created because they feel valued and appreciate the consideration of their views.

Pupils carry out their responsibilities with a sense of pride and commitment. They demonstrate great empathy and respect for their peers of many nationalities who join the school. The Eco group commendably tackle issues raised with recycling boxes in the village. As a result, their promotional video is used by the council to impact residents' understanding in the wider locality. School councillors and house captains identify injustice about the mistreatment of animals. They effectively encourage their peers to support a local horse sanctuary. Classes are admirably proactive in sponsoring children in Africa. Whilst fundraising is part of the initiative, they are loved as valued friends. Many are enthusiastic advocates demonstrating a great empathy for family and circumstance. They are united in the belief that 'together they can' help to transform the lives of each child and their community.

Deeply beneficial, reciprocal partnerships with the local diocese and Church schools contribute to the effectiveness of religious education (RE). Influential staff training and coordinator collaborations ensure that teacher subject knowledge is strong. 'Golden threads' are recognised as the fundamental concepts within religions. Consequently, using comparisons significantly impacts pupils' understanding of a range of beliefs. For example, classes identify similarities between world religions when comparing celebrations. Pupils confidently demonstrate that RE is helping them to converse with those of a variety of faiths and world views. They comprehensively understand that Christianity is a global world faith made up of a wide range of denominations with various traditions. Visits to places of worship to deepen practical experiences are at the early stages of development.

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

Information			
Inspection date	27 February 2024	URN	120525
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	185
Diocese	Lincoln		
MAT/Federation			
Executive Headteacher	Sheriden Edwards		
Chair	Janet Hannah		
Inspector	Joy Hardy	No.	944