

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew’s Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Matthews Close, Halstead, Essex CO9 2BH
School vision	
<p>St. Andrew’s aims high, promoting a love of life and learning in all. We take care of each other, working in partnership with families, the church and wider community. ‘Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.’ (Psalm 119:105)</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The well-established vision is deeply rooted in Christian thinking. Pupils and adults flourish in a nurturing environment which guides both their academic and personal journey. • St Andrew's is highly inclusive where pupils receive the support that they need, and wellbeing is prioritised. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or those who are vulnerable are able to flourish in this nurturing environment. • Religious Education (RE) has a high profile across the school and is well-led. The ambitious curriculum has been well-designed to ensure that all pupils are exposed to a depth and breadth of learning. • Opportunities for spiritual development are intrinsic across the curriculum. Pupils and adults understand the importance of moments of stillness. They also reflect on how these opportunities allow them to show respect to themselves and the world around them. • Collective worship is valued and clearly expresses the Christian vision. This allows for spiritual growth and gives pupils a deeper understanding of the school's vision and ethos. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop pupils' ability to identify and explore global injustice. This so pupils are equipped to lead social action in the wider world. • Embed ongoing assessment across RE so that pupils' starting points are clearly identified, enabling accelerated progress. • Identify opportunities through which the school's 'living well together' curriculum can be shared outside of the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). Therefore, further developing opportunities for pupils and adults to have an impact outside of their local community. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>St Andrew’s Church of England Primary School is rooted in its vision for ‘promoting a love of life and learning in all.’ Leaders ensure that ‘learning for life behaviours’ enable the vision to be a living reality. This drives the actions of the school. The vision permeates the carefully designed curriculum. Pupils flourish both academically and as members of their local community. Pupils have the opportunity to nominate each other for demonstrating ‘learning for life behaviours’. Therefore, they are able to talk</p>	

confidently about the impact that it has on their lives. The vision informs the priorities of the school. This motivates school and trust leaders to create an environment in which pupils' needs are met. The Church school distinctiveness committee evaluates the impact of the vision on the wider life of the school. Members represent home, school, trust, and church. The group regularly reviews the school's vision and values to ensure that it is meeting the needs of the community. St Andrew's Church of England Primary School is part of the All Saints Academy Trust. The vision of the trust is aligned with that of the school. As such, trustees have a clear understanding of their role. Trustees work systematically with other school leaders to ensure that monitoring is focused and purposeful.

The curriculum has been developed to sensitively recognise and respond to pupils' needs. Leaders have crafted a bespoke curriculum. This is demonstrated through their 'living well together' programme and developmental approach to spirituality, created within the school and wider trust. There are opportunities for, and a focus on, developing spirituality through a range of different experiences within the school day. As a result of this, spirituality is interwoven through the curriculum. Pupils speak with confidence of the opportunities for spiritual development within their learning. Wider opportunities are given to pupils and adults, such as use of the reflection garden, to support time for reflection. Outdoor learning also creates a time and space where pupils can be still and thankful. Use of school grounds, within this aspect of the curriculum, enhance moments of awe and wonder.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school and is well-planned. There are a range of opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually through the different experiences that are provided. Thinking and responding to big questions and the use of prayers, creates time and space for spiritual reflection. Pupils play an active part in collective worship through their roles within the worship committee. They are involved planning, creating, and leading worship. This includes writing and reading their own prayers that further supports their spiritual development. Pupils respond positively in collective worship through the carefully considered themes that enhance their experience. There are further opportunities given to all pupils to reflect and develop spiritually through the use of reflection areas. These spaces are considerably linked to worship themes. They offer pupils and staff the time and space to think about messages from worship. Pupils and adults alike use and appreciate this special place where they can pause and reflect on key questions.

The school works in close partnership with the local church. Pupils and their families enjoy taking part in a range of services as a community. They speak fondly of the importance of this relationship between home, school, and church.

'Living well together' is intrinsic to life at St Andrew's. Treating yourself and others with respect is a core value that is upheld through the vision. This underpins the behaviour and relationships policy. Pupils and adults understand why relationships that show mutual respect are important. Pupils are tolerant and understanding of each other. They recognise that some of their peers need more support than others. This is met with kindness and compassion. Pupils with SEND or who are vulnerable are supported in a nurturing environment. Use of the Thrive Room, and associated interventions, provide pupils with opportunities to develop in managing their emotions. Adults live well together at the school. Leaders have prioritised staff wellbeing, and this is monitored by the trust. The school is outward facing and works with partners to enhance the development and wellbeing of pupils and adults. For example, staff work in partnership with St Andrew's 'sister' school this has positively impacted on workload.

Pupils are provided with a range of opportunities to challenge social injustice in their local area. Leaders recognise that this has positively developed pupils as local ambassadors. The embedded 'living well together' curriculum, gives pupils a 'voice'. As a result, pupils are beginning to speak with growing confidence about injustice and how they can make a difference to their school and community. Pupils are still developing their understanding as global citizens and how to bring about change more widely. Leaders carefully select opportunities for outworking that are mutually beneficial to all parties. This includes work between trust schools, local partners, and their relationship with a contrasting school in London. Adults also take advantage of the professional development that comes from these opportunities.

RE is well-led at St Andrew's. It has a high profile and leaders are committed to ensuring that it meets the needs of all its pupils. The bespoke curriculum draws upon a range of well-developed resources and meets the requirements of a Church school. It has been expertly shaped to offer a range of experiences that are relevant to the pupils at the school. As a result, pupils are engaged and knowledgeable in RE lessons. The RE lead works closely with the local diocese and adults attend a range of training opportunities through this strong partnership. This supports teachers in developing their subject knowledge so that RE is well-taught and monitored effectively.

Pupils talk confidently about how their knowledge in RE built upon, through a progressive and balanced curriculum. As a result, pupils make good progress in this subject. Teachers are beginning to develop opportunities for pupils to demonstrate and check their prior learning and understanding. This is not embedded across the school. Books demonstrate the pride that pupils take in their learning and show that they think deeply about big questions. Pupils can discuss similarities and differences linking RE to their own experiences and views. This enables pupils to have a deep understanding of a range of world faiths including Christianity.

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

Information

Inspection date	07/02/2024	URN	145523
Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	221
Diocese	Chelmsford		
MAT	All Saints Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Bridgette Gough		
Chair	John Michael Gee		
Inspector	Karen Jones	No.	2236