

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Woodchurch Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3QJ
School vision	
<p>“Let your light shine...”</p> <p>Our school is rooted in God’s love, which ensures that every member of our community has a strong sense of belonging and is uniquely valued. Together, we flourish, shine and nurture our passion for learning within a safe and loving family. The light of Jesus inspires us to use our gifts to make a difference.</p> <p>Matthew 5:14-16: “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New models of leadership have taken the school on a successful and transformative journey. Woodchurch’s deeply embedded Christian vision of “Let your light shine” is clearly lived out by leaders at all levels. This shapes both day to day and strategic decision making. • Support from the Flourish Together Federation is significant. A rich programme of professional joint working opportunities is enabling staff in all roles to develop and thrive. • Inspired by the vision, there is a demonstrable atmosphere of encouragement and compassion for all. This established caring environment enables pupils, staff and families to flourish. • The school have carefully planned the curriculum and wider provision so that it is fully inclusive. This effectively challenges and broadens pupils’ outlook on the world. Pupils who benefit from additional support are well-provided for. • Collective worship is an affirming and joyful part of the daily life of the school. This thoughtfully planned and delivered time together impacts on the spiritual flourishing of those who experience it. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for pupils to recognise and engage with spirituality using the models and vocabulary designed by staff. This is to develop the pupils’ understanding and to enable them to share this with others. • Embed the sequence of the Religious Education (RE) curriculum securely for all pupils as they move through the school. This is to ensure appropriate progression so that pupils remember key facts and build on from previous learning. • As part of the federation and in order to meet the changing needs of pupils, continue to build and adapt provision so that there are more ways for all to flourish. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Woodchurch is a school rooted in its well-established Christian vision from Jesus’ teaching at the Sermon on the Mount. The accessible language of the vision to “Let your light shine” results in this</p>	

being easily understood by members of the school community. The vision and its associated values of compassion, hope, forgiveness, thankfulness and love have been carefully crafted to suit Woodchurch. Aspirational and driven leaders ensure the vision is at the heart of everything. The strong and mutually beneficial Flourish Together Federation with another church school provides both support and challenge. Policies, procedures and the daily life of the school are rooted in this Christian vision. Leaders understand the importance of the role of their school in the community. All they do and every decision made reflects the needs of the children and adults. Carefully planned monitoring of school improvement actions provides leaders and governors with evidence of impact and areas for development.

Leaders have ensured that the Christian vision shapes a curriculum that is exciting, fun and imaginative. This broad and rich approach ensures the needs of the pupils including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are met. Staff work tirelessly and creatively to meet the varied and changing needs of the pupils in their care. The focus of the Christian vision is on ensuring all shine and use their gifts to make a difference. This promotes a strong culture of responsibility across the school. The thoughtfully planned projects provide pupils with opportunities to think about justice and about how they can be agents of change. Themes of note include the international slave trade and the lives of significant people who have had a major impact on the world. It is because of this that pupils talk excitedly about their learning and how it makes them think and reflect. Leaders' make conscious decisions to ensure the curriculum reflects the differences and diversity of the global community. The opportunities this provides to debate moral and ethical issues supports pupils' character development well.

A result of the vision is the school's determination to ensure opportunities for all to shine. There is a strong focus on providing rich experiences in order to widen horizons. Provision includes varied clubs at lunchtimes and after school, such as mindfulness, chess and gardening, plus educational visits and visitors. Along with the '50 things to do before you leave Woodchurch', all pupils are given the opportunity to flourish in their learning. The school has recently carefully designed an approach around spiritual development. Staff understanding of this has improved. They are able to recognise both planned and unplanned opportunities for spiritual development, and ensure these are provided. Pupils do not yet have a clear understanding of spirituality or the vocabulary associated with it. This limits experiences for pupils to reflect and apply the learning to their lives.

The Christian vision of ensuring all should shine and feel they belong underpins the culture of Woodchurch. Pupils and adults treat each other well with relationships at all levels characterised by compassion and respect. Parents and carers are extremely positive about the school. They are rightly encouraged by the nurture and compassion shown to them and their children. Pupils speak confidently of how the 'Woodchurch Way' inspires them to let their light shine while treating others and the world with respect. A strong focus on wellbeing for all pupils and adults results in a culture where the whole person is nurtured. Staff appreciate the opportunities they are given to develop and grow professionally. High quality professional development through both Canterbury Diocese and the federation has a positive impact. Leaders are proactive in ensuring staff are given the time and space to fulfil their roles and balance work-home commitments. This ensures staff know that they valued and listened to.

Collective worship is an integral part of the culture at Woodchurch. The use of Bible stories, singing, prayer and drama ensure it is a memorable start to the day. Pupils talk enthusiastically about how collective worship makes them think. Leaders plan worship carefully using a variety of resources and drawing upon the school's Christian vision and values. 'I wonder' questions and moments of reflection enable pupils and staff to ponder and respond to the messages in worship. All are given opportunities to think about how they can make a difference or what they might do differently in their daily life. The key questions from worship are shared with parents and carers on the fortnightly newsletter. This enriches the spiritual development of all who attend worship as well as other members of the school community. Many staff are well supported to lead worship. It is further enhanced by representatives from the church including the 'open the book' volunteers and regular visits to the church for worship. The school regularly accesses support and training from the diocese

to develop worship further. Members of the pupil worship committee have started to lead worship in their classes which further supports their spiritual development. The federation has given opportunities for the two school communities to worship together such as the virtual Christingle service. This has provided moments to allow pupils and adults to grow spiritually together. Leaders have ensured that RE has a high profile across the school and is a priority. It is valued by staff and pupils alike. The subject leader has worked closely with the diocese and the federation to develop RE over time. Monitoring from governors and leaders has supported this. Staff receive regular training to enhance their own knowledge and teaching. Resources such as 'Understanding Christianity' enhance the school's curriculum, providing pupils with opportunities to tackle 'big questions'. There have been regular reviews and adaptations to the curriculum content over time. Leaders ensure appropriate progression of knowledge and skills for all year groups as they move through the school. Pupils say they enjoy RE and are confident to talk about their views of Christianity. However, knowledge of worldviews, particularly for older pupils, is less strong. This is because consistent structures have not been in place for long enough to support pupils in remembering key facts.

The school's Christian vision fosters a sense of the importance of letting your light shine for the benefit of others. Pupils value the varied opportunities they have to make a difference. This includes highlighting the issues of racism in sport, raising money for national charities and helping out with local events. Strong partnerships with the church and other local community groups impact positively on the lives of many. The 'Here to help' organisation is notable in the part it plays in this. Varied curriculum resources are used to encourage pupils to explore local, national, and global issues. This ensures pupils look beyond themselves and promotes an understanding of justice and responsibility.

Woodchurch truly is a school where the vision to "Let your light shine" is a lived reality resulting in the flourishing of pupils, staff and families.

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

Information			
Inspection date	29 February 2024	URN	118672
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	165
Diocese	Canterbury		
MAT/Federation	Flourish Together Federation		
Headteachers	Jennifer Dawes (Head of School) and Kelly Burlton (Executive Headteacher)		
Chair	Clare Silcock		
Inspector	Sarah Alexander	No.	2108