

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Mugginton Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Mugginton, Weston Underwood, Ashbourne, DE6 4PL
School vision	
<p>Love your neighbour as yourself Matthew 22: 38-40</p> <p>Living, laughing and learning together</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian vision and associated values bond pupils and adults as a distinctive Church school. • Leadership create an environment which encourages pupils and adults to reflect upon spiritual experiences. Consequently, their lives are enriched. • Collective worship creates a sense of belonging. All are invited to reflect and pray, coming together to be spiritually uplifted. • A deeply loving, inclusive culture enables pupils and adults to belong and flourish. Achievements are celebrated, developing personal confidence and a sense of wellbeing. • Through religious education (RE) pupils build a strong and coherent understanding of Christianity. They recall Bible stories with confidence. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make explicit use of the Christian vision in the decision-making process so it becomes the catalyst for the school's direction. • Make increasing use of partnerships to further develop church school ethos and governance. • Develop ways in RE to support pupils to retain their knowledge and understanding of world faiths. This is to further enhance their appreciation of diversity. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The school's distinctive Christian vision is the foundation for all that occurs. Loving your neighbour is central to this community's interactions and is palpable throughout the school day. Pupils develop self-awareness and confidence while valuing others. They have the courage of their convictions. Staff listen attentively to pupils' ideas which are subsequently considered and frequently acted upon. Pupils routinely extend kindness to others, following the example provided by the adults who care deeply for them. The school's claim to be a second family is not unfounded.</p> <p>A knowledgeable and very visible governing body provide leadership with challenge and support. They know the pupils and dedicated staff well, taking an active interest in their academic and personal development. Governors are mindful of staff workload and wellbeing. They hold the headteacher to account and together they make a strong team. There is a clear drive to invest in</p>	

people and formative experiences. Through courageous financial decisions, priority is given to employ a range of highly motivated staff. Consequently, the school is well equipped to support the emerging needs of pupils, including the more vulnerable. However, the school's vision is not explicitly used during the decision-making process.

The school has informal collaborations with neighbouring schools, for mutual benefit. Despite the current absence of a vicar, links with the church are sustained through members of the parochial church council. However, the impact of partnership, especially with the diocese is currently underdeveloped. This limits the support and challenge available from external expertise to leaders in sustaining their Church school oversight.

The curriculum reflects the school's context and vision. Situated in beautiful countryside, the school makes very good use of outdoor activities. There is a common appreciation of spiritual experiences which deepens relationships. Pupils and staff take the opportunity to enjoy the aesthetic natural beauty, enhancing a deep appreciation of God's world. Furthermore, the extracurricular provision is considerable, utilising the staff's skill in abundance. With an emphasis upon exploring nature, participating in sport and developing musical talent, pupils receive rich and exciting opportunities. Weekly sports fixtures, the Mugginton Mile, nature-based experiences and learning an instrument are the golden threads of the school's offer. Local and cultural events, along with school educational visits, are celebrated through social media. The community is therefore well informed of the school's rich and vibrant life. High attaining academic results are achieved through staff's relentless commitment. The school is proud that they inspire a love of learning which is wide and varied. Through the vision, ably enhanced by school's values, pupils flourish and become the best that they can be.

The vision and seven distinct values are the bedrock of collective worship. They are used to shape spiritual development through prayer, reflection and music. For example, pupils independently write concluding prayers for daily worship. This enables the whole school to reflect upon how a chosen value impacts upon their lives. Furthermore, pupils' prayers are posted onto the school website and contribute to worship within the local community. Additionally, reflection in worship, and using a calm space in classrooms, provides the opportunity to find peace during a busy day. Consequently, pupils and adults can respond to the Christian belief in the presence, power and peace of God. Worship is characterised by enthusiastic and joyful singing and is an uplifting experience, enriching spiritual flourishing. Pupils and adults are inspired by local Christians who visit to talk about what faith means to them. These visitors lead collective worship, such as a professional county cricketer offering insights into how faith has supported his career. The school fosters its place at the centre of village life by reaching out to its neighbours. The wider community is invited to the school's half termly church services. Also, during kindness week, the pupils delivered handmade gifts and cards to 'spread love and kindness to all'.

Pupils are proactive in their response to Bible stories as a consequence of collective worship and RE. For example, through the application of their understanding of the parable of the mustard seed, older pupils act inclusively. They explain how they have responsibility to care for those who are younger. Older pupils evaluate how they were once small seeds that have grown. They recognise they are now able to offer shelter to others.

The school is a deeply caring, tight knit community, where everyone matters. Every person is known well. Consequently, school is a source of comfort and support during personally challenging times. Through the vision leaders are swift to notice need, responding practically and compassionately. They are always ready to go the extra mile. The school's ethos consistently fosters caring attitudes and is built upon being welcoming. Many pupils join part way through their primary years and their peers welcome them with open arms. In this way they live the vision of loving their neighbour as

themselves. As a result, everyone is cherished and valued with the Christian belief of being one of God's children.

Pupils are introduced to the need for social action in an age-appropriate way. Through the vision of loving their neighbour, they are very aware of the difference they can make through kindness. Multiple charities benefit from fundraising. This includes supporting East Meru Community School in Tanzania through the Enterprise Project. However, their awareness goes beyond raising money. For example, recognising the extreme winter cold families would face, pupils organised a coat collection and transportation to the Ukraine.

Pupils, of all ages, have a strong recall of a range of Bible stories and delight in demonstrating their knowledge. They explore big ideas in RE and enjoy wrestling with challenging questions as they develop their understanding. The school's biblically based Christian values are known well by pupils. They can discuss the relevance of these values within their lives. Creative teaching brings RE lessons to life. The use of the arts, particularly painting and music, generates deep discussion about significant Christian biblical themes. For example, reviewing the events of Holy Week through Christian art, pupils explored the artist's interpretation of the Last Supper. They discussed the consequence of Jesus' love. The school makes good use of resources. While pupils understand that Christianity is a world faith their knowledge of world faiths is not secure.

Pupils and adults live, laugh and learn well together at Mugginton Primary as they live their vision and values. Happy faces and the sound of laughter are contagious, enabling pupils and staff to flourish in a school where love drives actions.

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

Information			
Inspection date	18 March 2024	URN	112862
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	63
Diocese	Derby		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Joseph Green		
Chair	Catherine Stroud		
Inspector	Mark Millinson	No.	2121