

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew's Church of England VA Primary School, Northampton	
Address	Ecton Brook Road, Northampton, NN3 5EN
School vision	
<p style="text-align: center;">“With God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26)</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school’s Christian vision is carefully crafted and appropriate for the families it serves. It creates a shared commitment enabling everyone to flourish in a supportive and caring community. • Worship plays a key part in pupils' understanding of the school’s Christian vision and its relevance in their lives. They are engaged with planning, monitoring and evaluating which enhances their spiritual growth. • There is a culture of care and nurture in the school. Positive mental health and wellbeing are prioritised in this inclusive community. Every effort is taken to overcome barriers so all can thrive. • Pupil voice is strong. There are authentic opportunities for them to contribute to the life of the community through leadership roles. Pupils are advocates for change locally and globally and are proactive in taking actions to combat injustice. • The religious education (RE) curriculum is well planned and adapted to meet the needs of pupils. As a result, they make good progress. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce robust systems of monitoring and evaluation. This will enhance governors understanding of the impact of the vision and shape future developments. • Refine assessment systems in RE. This is to further enable teachers to know more effectively what and how well pupils learn so all flourish. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Welcoming, inclusive and approachable are hallmarks of St Andrew’s School. Underpinning everything is its Christian vision 'With God all things are possible'. It inspires the school community to be open and have a positive outlook to life. A strong relationship with its families brings unity, where pupils belong and live happily together. Leaders, including governors, know their school well and have high expectations and aspirations for those they serve.</p> <p>The school’s Christian vision is evident in policies and informs its improvement plans, which in turn are seen in practice. The Relationships and Behaviour policy has been built upon the associated values. As a result, pupils are respectful, calm and caring. Issues are resolved using an approach of reconciliation and forgiveness. The school's Christian outlook influences their pupils' actions within</p>	



and beyond St Andrew's. Leaders also emphasise the caring ethos that it creates. Committed governors regularly visit and support the school in a variety of ways. They monitor all aspects of practice. However, they do not always evaluate the impact of the school's vision.

The curriculum is designed with the vision at its core. In a richly diverse, but constantly changing area, the school broadens horizons through creative learning experiences. There is a range of extra-curricular activities that all are encouraged to participate in, particularly those who are disadvantaged. Those considered to be vulnerable are well nurtured and cared for in this welcoming community. Strong pastoral support for pupils and families enhances this provision. Bespoke interventions, coupled with practical help, enable pupils and adults to flourish. There are effectively planned opportunities to foster spiritual development throughout the curriculum. For example, in the Early Years, pupils look at the signs of spring to appreciate the beauty of the natural world. Moments of awe and wonder within the day are used effectively enabling reflection to develop curiosity. The school community has created a shared language that expresses their understanding of spirituality in a child friendly way. As a result, opportunities for 'ow', 'wow', 'now' moments are interwoven into all aspects of St Andrew's life.

Collective worship has a deep impact upon the life of the school. Pupils and adults talk positively about how it makes them think and feel. They rejoice coming together to worship and reflect. The lighting of the Trinity candles with the use of images, texts, animation and music creates a respectful atmosphere. Prayer is embedded practice and is invitational in nature. Pupils sing and sign beautifully and participate eagerly in this special time. They sensitively contribute ideas in response to challenging, thought-provoking questions. Pupils make insightful connections between their Christian values and the life of Jesus. Leaders build on pupils' reflections by inspiring them to live out these values in other aspects of the school day. This ensures that worship is purposeful and spiritually impactful.

Worship is enhanced by representatives from the church and visits. The partnership with the local vicar serves to deepen pupils' understanding of Christianity as a living faith. Members of the pupil worship team plan, deliver and lead gatherings, which enriches their spiritual development. Individuals are nominated for weekly awards that celebrate the living out of their school values. Parents appreciate joining in with these celebrations in school. It affirms them as genuine partners believing the values help their children to feel proud of themselves and their setting. Leaders and pupils engage in monitoring. As a result, and as evidenced by evaluations of the impact of collective worship, it is a spiritually enriching experience for everyone.

A culture of responsibility and justice empowers pupil voice. Consequently, the school council, collective worship team and those involved in 'Year Group Causes' make a significant contribution to daily life. Through their support of local and international charities, pupils are given the opportunity to see beyond themselves. These have included litter picking, recycling, conserving energy and supporting the nearby foodbank. They confidently share examples where they have taken action to make real and meaningful change beyond their own lives. St Andrew's has developed a close partnership with a school in Indonesia. Video conferencing allows them to build relationships with this community and to help their global neighbours. This results in pupils making a difference to people's lives and enabling change in the world around them.

Throughout the school there is a strong focus on pupils and adults caring for each other. Leaders maintain a culture in which everyone is made to feel welcome and fully included. Adults model positive behaviours and promote inclusivity. Consequently, pupils display respect and acceptance across the whole school. Staff wellbeing is prioritised by leaders who provide support on a regular basis. Focused professional development also fosters a nurturing environment where all feel valued and supported.

RE is well led and the subject has a high profile. Leaders, including governors, effectively monitor priorities, linking them to the school development plan. St Andrew's is proud to have achieved the RE Quality Mark Award as part of their commitment to excellence. The curriculum is well-sequenced, interesting and covers a variety of faiths. Pupils learn about a variety of religions. As a result they respect and understand people with beliefs that are different from their own. A range of worldviews are effectively explored. Visiting speakers provide memorable experiences. 'Big questions' stimulate thinking and discussion. They also create opportunities to debate in a safe and supportive space. Pupils know many important Bible stories and can relate these to their own school values. They use this knowledge to think about what they believe and can explain why. It helps them to be prepared for the modern world in which they live.

A recent project explored how the symbol of the Christian cross is designed in different countries. This generated a fruitful discussion developing pupils' appreciation of Christianity as a global living faith. Learning reflects a variety of creative activities and is regularly assessed. Pupils make good progress over time. However, reviewing and refining approaches to assessment of RE is at the early stage of development.

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

Information			
Inspection date	19 March 2024	URN	122017
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	361
Diocese	Peterborough		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Val Griffiths		
Chair	Peter Lightfoot		
Inspector	Rachael Hutchinson	No.	2235