

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hertford Vale Church of England VC Primary School, Staxton	
Address	Ings Lane, Staxton, Scarborough, YO12 4SS
School vision	
<p>“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6</p> <p>Along with clear directions, God has given everyone freedom to choose their own path in life. By raising children in a Godly manner, we instil in them love, respect, kindness, resilience and peace so that they may choose the right path for themselves.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is clearly articulated and understood by the school community and is central to the life of the school. • Relationships within the school and across the community are highly positive. Through the vision, pupils are supported and nurtured to be their best. Inclusion, nurture and wellbeing are prioritised so that everyone flourishes. • Pupils know that they can use their voices to make a change in their locality. They understand their place in the world and enthusiastically see themselves as able to make a difference. • Collective worship is a valued time for reflection and spiritual growth. It inspires pupils and adults to live out the vision each day. • Pupils have a deep understanding of difference and diversity. This is celebrated and brought to life through planned activities and carefully created resources in the curriculum. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategic approach for governors to monitor and evaluate the impact of the school's Christian vision over time. • Develop a deeper shared understanding of spiritual development within the curriculum. This is so that pupils have planned opportunities to grow as reflective learners. • Ensure that key knowledge is identified at each stage in the religious education (RE) curriculum. This is so that pupils are well prepared for the next stages in their learning. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Hertford Vale is a school where everyone thrives and flourishes in a community united by love. The warm, welcoming atmosphere is underpinned by an authentic desire to prioritise the different needs of pupils and adults. Individuals are valued and genuinely loved for who they are. Leaders have ensured that the vision reflects the community, is well understood and drives all aspects of life in school. The focus on providing pupils with a positive, clear life path drives the work of staff and leaders in school. The long-established values are embedded into daily life and, as a result, pupils are taught how to apply them to positive actions. The vision has guided governors when making</p>	



difficult decisions and when monitoring school effectiveness. However, there is no systematic plan to evaluate the impact of the vision.

Strong supportive relationships are the beating heart of Hertford Vale's success. This strength is recognised and celebrated, and is truly valued by parents. Leaders have developed a range of effective partnerships in the locality, including close links with the diocese. Staff know each pupil as an individual and provide them with the skills and support they need to succeed. Pupils recognise and value the love that they receive. They proudly say that this demonstrates that 'the vision is not just a set of words on a page.' The maintenance and enhancement of wellbeing is a priority of leaders. This is supported by the special educational needs and/or disabilities coordinator (SENDCO) and mental health champion, who are known and valued by adults and pupils. Insightful appreciation of the skills and talents of staff means that they are given the confidence to grow and flourish. As a result of this, everyone is inspired to be the very best version of themselves.

Collective worship is a special, valued time for the school community. Pupils are enthusiastic and respectful. They are engaged by a range of biblical themes and are encouraged to think deeply and relate these to their own lives. School leaders have developed a close relationship with the local church which is mutually beneficial. Worship is varied and provides opportunities for spiritual flourishing and growth. Quiet reflection is central and pupils and adults value this time to 'just be'. This is enhanced by a range of visiting leaders and groups who provide pupils with a different way of reflecting and celebrating. Pupils and adults engage joyfully and are provided with inclusive, invitational opportunities to lead and participate in prayer and reflection. Singing during worship is exuberant and is enhanced by a thriving school choir. Worship journals capture reflections, questions and thoughts which can be revisited at different times.

Inspired by the vision, leaders have designed a balanced curriculum which prepares pupils for life beyond Hertford Vale. It encourages pupils to be the very best versions of themselves. Themed days and weeks promote experiential learning and a range of visits and visitors bring learning to life for pupils. Deliberate decisions have been made to ensure the planning of relevant, appropriately challenging topics and texts. This is so that difference and diversity is celebrated, and pupils are encouraged to engage with a variety of different topics. Inspired by lessons and the texts studied, they talk enthusiastically about ways that they have acted in the knowledge that their voice matters. Throughout the school, carefully curated reflection spaces encourage pupils to pause and contemplate a range of big questions. Pupils are encouraged to stop and reflect on the beauty of God's creation and they respond positively to this. However, the many opportunities for spiritual flourishing are not always explicitly identified. This is because there is not a fully embedded understanding of spiritual development in the school.

The school is calm and purposeful. In line with the vision, pupils behave well towards each other. The impact of the vision is evident in the provision for pupils with additional needs. There is a deep understanding of the link between nurture, acceptance and learning. Pastoral care is rooted in understanding of individual needs and circumstances. This ensures that all individuals can flourish and make progress, regardless of their starting point. Parents are warmly welcomed into school and overwhelmingly express positivity about Hertford Vale. They know that they can approach leaders and staff for support when required. School is described by them as 'a loving family, where everyone is made to feel special.'

RE has a high profile and leaders are committed to ensuring that it meets the needs of pupils. The school has worked in partnership with the diocese to make sure that the RE curriculum meets the requirements for the subject in a church school. The curriculum provides a balance of Christianity with a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. Pupils talk about RE with enthusiasm and recognise its importance. They articulate their learning with confidence and understand that



Christianity is a diverse, global faith where practices vary. They understand the purpose of the subject and how this supports them in learning how to live in harmony with other people. Regular assessment systems are in place to identify knowledge progression. These are used to identify next steps and inform planning. The fluctuating nature of class structures at Hertford Vale means that leaders are required to revisit long-term planning regularly. They recognise that these changes require careful evaluation of the key knowledge which is being taught in classes each year.

The voices and opinions of everyone matter at Hertford Vale. Inspired by the vision, pupils are passionate about their school and community. They are encouraged to learn and grow in through an authentic commitment to their community and environment. As a result of this, they are given the confidence by school to speak for those without a voice. The school's Eco Club provides positive role models for other pupils in school. They are passionate about the need to care for the planet. Pupils understand the importance of courageous advocacy. They have independently undertaken a range of activities to raise awareness and make their voices heard. Enthusiastic reference is made to the 'small changes which make a big difference'. This is often in a personal way which is deeply meaningful to them.

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

Information			
Inspection date	20 May 2024	URN	121534
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	119
Diocese	York		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Andrew Barber		
Chair	Paul Bradbury		
Inspector	Lee Talbot	No.	2123