



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Motcombe Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	Church Road, Motcombe, Shaftesbury, SP7 9NT
<b>School vision</b>	
‘Faith and Friendship, Learning and Laughter’	
<p>Motcombe is a place where we value every child as an individual and develop children academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually within a happy and nurturing environment. Together we give our children a place to develop their faith, make lasting friendships, engage in high quality learning and most importantly have fun!</p>	
‘Love One Another As I have Loved You’ John 15:12	
<b>School strengths</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vision is at the heart of the school and shines through in all the actions and decisions taken. It has a transformational impact on the community which it serves.</li> <li>• Pupils and adults are deeply valued as individuals and feel respected, trusted and loved. There is tangible sense of pride about belonging to this school.</li> <li>• The school is highly inclusive and welcoming. The vision is a living reality. Adult and pupil leaders are prepared to stand up for others because of their strong sense of moral purpose.</li> <li>• Motcombe takes a significant lead in its partnership work with other schools in the trust which enables others to flourish beyond the school.</li> <li>• Collective worship, enhanced through its links with the church, actively promotes the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.</li> </ul>	
<b>Areas for development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further support the progress of the pupils in religious education (RE) through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Clearly defining the key sequential learning objectives, knowledge and skills which are taught.</li> <li>➤ Aligning the school’s assessment procedures in RE to the agreed key sequential learning outcomes to inform future teaching and learning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continue to embed the recent wider curriculum developments which support the spiritual flourishing of pupils.</li> </ul>	

### Inspection findings

The school's Christian vision, built upon the strong foundation of 'Faith and Friendship, Learning and Laughter', supports its pupils and adults to flourish as individuals. School leaders and governors ensure that policies, decisions, and actions taken are firmly rooted in love. For example, a relational-based behaviour policy has been implemented which has resulted in a calm, inclusive and nurturing learning community. Pupils and adults demonstrate a huge amount of trust and pride in their school. The school's vision is supported through its values of perseverance, creativity, trust, forgiveness, compassion and koinonia. Collective worship is effectively used to deepen the pupils' understanding of God's love for them and how they can use this to the benefit of those around them. Leaders have a clear understanding of the school's current strengths and areas for development as a Church school. The school is well-supported by the Multi-Academy Trust (Sherborne Area Schools' Trust) to which it belongs, and its Christian foundation is enhanced through the network opportunities and additional training provided.

The 'Marvellous Motcombe' curriculum reflects the school's Christian vision through supporting the holistic development of its pupils. A range of subjects are taught in a broad and balanced thematic approach alongside others, such as RE, which has a dedicated discrete weekly lesson. The parents value this creative approach. Learning is described by pupils as being fun and where teachers 'help you to understand how to do better in the future'. School leaders have recently developed a strategic approach to identifying golden opportunities for spiritual growth throughout the curriculum such as during the Year 5 stargazing evening. However, these opportunities are not fully embedded.

The school community prides itself on its 'Motcombe Feel'. There is sense of belonging and unity which permeates through all aspects of school life. Collective worship is a time where this bond is further strengthened. Faith and friendship are clearly embedded within the life of the school. The daily acts of worship, which take place in a variety of forms throughout the week, support the spiritual flourishing of the school community. The pupils fondly describe the worship and Messy Church sessions led by the local church group which includes some of the foundation governors. Older pupils can wisely articulate how seeing Bible stories acted out supports the understanding of them for the younger pupils or those with additional needs. Considered thought has been given to the importance of the worship environment. This has resulted in the school hall and spiritual garden being places which enhance the opportunities provided for individuals to pause, reflect and be spiritually replenished.

The love for each other creates an ethos in which pupils and adults at the school are treated very well. There is a highly inclusive culture, and a significant proportion of families travel from outside of the catchment area to become part of the school community. The school has successfully transformed the educational journey of several vulnerable pupils and the impact this has had on the wellbeing of their whole family is life changing. The school reaches out and welcomes with open arms those felt isolated by others. The wellbeing of pupils and staff is given high priority by all. The work of the school's pastoral, special educational needs and mental health teams means those who are experiencing difficult times are excellently supported. Pupils talk openly about the school accepting them for who they are, feeling appreciated and being helped to understand if they make a mistake.

As an example of love for one another, the school takes a leading role in the partnerships it fosters. Within the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust, the school donates significant leadership support to those in need with the headteacher currently overseeing two other schools. The

school has led the way in rebuilding a mutually beneficial bond with St. Mary's Motcombe church. This contributes to the sense of vibrancy within the village. Joint initiatives such as the hymnpact project are enabling the pupils to have access to enrichment opportunities including an invitation to sing to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The positive impact of the school's leadership on people's lives is mirrored by the actions of the pupils. They willingly and humbly serve others through the innovative ambassador programme. The faith, friendship, learning and laughter ambassadors are well-trained and dedicated groups of pupils who are role-models and mentors for their peers. This helps to create and build positive relationships between the different year groups and a sense of responsibility towards others. This is highlighted through the Reception Year and Year 6 buddy system whereby a new pupil to the school is supported to settle in by those who have the foundations in place to flourish at secondary school. Within the curriculum, pupils are developing their understanding and knowledge of injustice in the wider world. Environmental stewardship is an important thread throughout the school. Pupils have been agents of change in successfully reducing the dependency on single use plastic at lunchtime and courageous advocates in raising awareness of the impact of deforestation.

RE is given priority by the school leaders and governors supported by an effective policy, action plan and curriculum time allocation. Continuing professional development is impacting positively on the effectiveness of the curriculum. It is deepening the teachers' knowledge of the theology underpinning the Understanding Christianity and Emmanuel Project teaching resources. There is a clear focus within lessons on developing the breadth of the pupils' religious vocabulary across a variety of world faiths. Through engaging effectively with the diocese, the subject leader is flourishing and the school is now well-placed to further develop its RE curriculum. Identifying the most important sequential learning outcomes the pupils are to be assessed on is a priority. Currently the pupils' written academic work within the subject does not illustrate with clarity their understanding of the key knowledge and skills taught.

Motcombe is a shining example of how a village primary school can be a beacon of faith, friendship, learning and laughter for the community which it serves.

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

Information			
School	Motcombe Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
URN	141798	Academy	Academy (former VA)
Diocese	Salisbury	Pupils on roll	184
MAT	SAST – Sherborne Area Schools' Trust		
Executive Headteacher	Matthew Barge		
Head of School	Naomi Kendrick		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Jasmin Melville/David Middleton		
Inspector	Nigel Helm	No.	C.23/24