



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

Whitefriars Church of England Primary Academy	
Address	Whitefriars Road, PE30 5AH
School vision	
<p>Building the House on the Rock Whitefriars flourishes by encouraging ambition, growing resilience and making community. Matthew 7:24-27</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Whitefriars school community is committed to its Christian vision to build strong foundations for all. Inspired by this common purpose, adults and pupils support each other to be resilient and to succeed.</li> <li>• The thoughtfully designed curriculum provides a firm foundation for pupils' spiritual development. This means that all pupils, including those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, are enthused and delighted by what they learn.</li> <li>• Collective worship draws the school community together around a shared ambition to grow spiritually. Worship provides a welcoming and reflective atmosphere that includes and enriches everyone.</li> <li>• This inclusive and diverse school promotes a mutually supportive culture of high expectations regardless of need or background. Adults and pupils live well together with dignity because leaders demonstrate how to treat everyone with justice and mercy.</li> <li>• The religious education (RE) curriculum is enriched by thoughtful ideas and accurate vocabulary. Well trained staff employ carefully chosen resources to engage pupils with detailed knowledge and challenging questions.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on the school's generosity and commitment to its local community to engage with global issues of injustice. This is so that pupils can be empowered to take action and promote justice more widely.</li> <li>• Improve the consistency of the teaching of the various religions in the RE curriculum. This is so that pupils can deepen their broader religious knowledge.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Whitefriars community unites around a common vision because they understand why it is the right vision for their school. The biblical encouragement to build their life on a strong foundation acts as an inspiration to governors, staff and pupils. Christian values are promoted to help pupils and staff live out the vision. A different value, such as forgiveness, is highlighted each term. It is discussed and examined in worship as well as in class and through the promotion of relevant library books. Pupils are inspired to achieve a 'value in action' award that makes the vision a living reality for them. The school is a member of the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust</p>	



(DNEAT). The Whitefriars Christian vision reflects the vision of the trust. This means that DNEAT can support and challenge school leaders effectively because they share a common purpose.

The calm learning atmosphere at Whitefriars helps pupils to grow in wisdom as they engage enthusiastically with their lessons. The school's curriculum builds pupils' confidence for the future by requiring them to think and speak about challenging questions. It helps pupils to overcome early challenges and become confident and knowledgeable learners. This includes those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Pupils develop spiritually in lessons because the purposeful atmosphere promotes reflection and discussion about what they are learning. Leaders want pupils to remember what they learn, and staff ensure that the Christian vision helps this to happen. This diligence extends equally to pupils with SEND and those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. Carefully chosen enrichment activities, such as visits to the theatre, broaden pupils' horizons and trigger their curiosity.

Worship provides a welcoming atmosphere for the diverse Whitefriars community. It is carefully planned to promote the school's definition of spiritual development, encompassing stillness, wonder, reflection and positive emotions. Pupils enjoy it because the teachers and clergy who lead it make it engaging and make everyone feel included. Prayer draws the school together because it offers the opportunity for shared communal reflection. Pupils write thoughtful prayers to post on the prayer tree. This activity is prioritised in the school day to mirror the school's commitment to provide opportunities for peaceful self-awareness. A love of singing expresses the strength of co-operative relationships within the school community. This sense of calmness and security enhances the emotional wellbeing of staff and pupils alike. The content of worship reflects the school's Christian foundation. A group of pupils presented a powerful retelling of the Easter story in King's Lynn Minster. This inspirational presentation enabled those present to respond emotionally and spiritually to the accurate depiction of the Bible story.

There are many different languages spoken at Whitefriars. The explicit promotion of a shared vision to build a strong future for all pupils draws different nationalities together. Reflecting the Christian vision, leaders ensure that pupils receive any necessary additional English language teaching to access the curriculum quickly. Leaders are diligent and relentless in their support for pupils with SEND. Strong foundations are built for vulnerable pupils through specialist additional provision, empowering them to access the curriculum with dignity. Specially trained staff are available to support pupils' mental health. Adults explain how leaders also ensure that provision for their mental health and wellbeing needs is available. Leaders understand the importance of helping families to learn how to support their children, especially during difficult times. The school's family support worker offers specialist advice to families and trains teaching staff to work closely with parents. Poppy, the ever-present school dog, unites the whole school community in affection for her. She promotes positive emotions and can sometimes refocus pupils' attention at challenging moments.

Whitefriars is a generous and mutually supportive community. This is because their support for others explicitly grows out of the school's support for them. Adults treat each other with respect and consideration, and pupils are expected to follow their example. The school's behaviour management system has very high expectations. Leaders have created a culture where pupils want to treat each other well. Any pupil that occasionally falls below these expectations is treated with consideration, and supported to succeed next time. Staff are expert in this approach to managing behaviour and understand that it is an expression of the Christian vision. Following the example set by adults, pupils also treat each other with mercy. Adults and pupils are inspired by the Christian vision to build a better future for their local neighbourhood. The curriculum does not, however, look at national and global issues of justice in a similar depth. This means that pupils are not given enough opportunities to work and challenge broader injustice on a wider scale.

Pupils benefit from a thoughtfully constructed RE curriculum. DNEAT provides an RE staff network for inter-school collaboration and facilitates valuable training from the Diocese of Norwich. Based around key questions, RE lessons promote the understanding not only of religious practice, but also vocabulary and beliefs. An example is 'what is sin?' Here, pupils study the different religious and philosophical understanding of right and wrong. Enrichment activities, supported by local clergy, broaden the RE curriculum. These include a visit to Ely Cathedral to learn about church history. Clergy also come into school to discuss Christian beliefs. Muslim and Hindu visitors to the school support pupils' deepening understanding of diverse faiths. The RE curriculum enriches the spiritual development of pupils by helping them to understand the power of emotion in religious experience. For example, an RE lesson in a local church teaches pupils about the stations of the cross. This is so that they can understand how Christians express their feelings at Easter.

Pupils make good progress in RE because staff teach the well-planned curriculum with confidence. As a result, pupils can reflect upon their learning. This enables them to remember it and talk about it later. Pupils' understanding of the Christian religion is very well developed. In this ethnically diverse school, pupils know that Christians worship differently around the world. They understand key Christian beliefs such as incarnation. Using this knowledge, they describe different sophisticated ideas to understand why Christians believe Jesus is God. Pupils' knowledge of some religions, however, is not sufficiently well developed. For these religions, pupils can explain religious practice, but cannot confidently describe how it arises from underlying fundamental beliefs. Staff carefully monitor what pupils learn in RE, checking that they have understood each section of the curriculum. This information enables them to adapt their teaching so that pupils can deepen and extend their knowledge.

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

Information			
Inspection date	22 March 2024	URN	141314
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	393
Diocese	Norwich		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust		
Headteacher	Mathew Tuckwood		
Chair	Jillian Hemmings		
Inspector	Richard Hopkins	No.	2234