

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Peter's Crosskeys Church of England Academy	
Address	Sandhill Road, Farndon, NG24 4TE

School vision
<p style="text-align: center;">‘Rooted in love we flourish and grow’.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Parable of the Mustard Seed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches’.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 13: 31-33</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Community Hope Wisdom Peace Dignity Joy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Providing an engaging educational environment that prepares children for life, with the hope and ambition to achieve their best. Working with the whole school community to build respect and understanding for one another. Encouraging all our talents, to flourish and grow with confidence and be successful members of society.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school’s Christian vision has been carefully crafted to reflect the community in which it serves. The Parable of the Mustard Seed is readily articulated by many and is pertinent to the life of the school. It enables pupils and adults to thrive. • Leaders identified a clear sense of direction to embed the renewed vision. Their drive and determination have ensured this has been rapid and very relevant. • Relationships at St Peter’s Crosskeys are rooted in a transformational Christian love which is impacting the lives of pupils and adults. • There are exceptionally strong links between the diocese, church and school. They make a very positive contribution to deepening the Christian character of the school. • The partnership with the multi academy trust (MAT) is highly valued by the staff team. This is particularly evident through collaborative working and wellbeing support.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate a shared language of spirituality. This is in order to further deepen spiritual development in collective worship and across the wider curriculum. • Enrich opportunities for pupils to take the initiative to challenge injustice and act on issues that are important to them. This will empower them to make a difference in the world and take greater ownership to be agents of change. • Strengthen provision for pupils to experience real life and practical experiences of world religions and cultures. This is to develop a wider appreciation of life beyond their locality and a greater understanding of diverse communities.

Inspection findings

The community at St Peter's Crosskeys lives and breathes their Christian vision. Everything that happens is grounded in a deep sense of Christian love permeating throughout this village school. Articulated through the Parable of the Mustard Seed, pupils explain how Christian values are the roots enabling them to flourish. There is a culture of unreserved compassion where each individual is treasured. Consequently, lives are transformed because they are surrounded by a conscious feeling of all encompassing love.

Leaders are the embodiment of exemplifying 'rooted in love' at its deepest level. The vision statement has been renewed and carefully crafted to reflect the community in which it serves. Whilst the current leadership structure is relatively new, their passion and drive to embed the vision is uncompromising. As a result, it is innate in all aspects because of very rapid and relevant measures. A clear and strategic system of quality assurance ensures actions have been taken. Consequently, this purposeful and effective approach to monitoring Christian distinctiveness, has an ongoing and escalating impact. Notably, a routine reflection on 'golden moments' in governor meetings gives clear, focussed considerations. These guarantee that an ongoing emphasis on the Parable of the Mustard Seed and resulting flourishing is comprehensive and pertinent. A rich and varied range of visits and joint support through the multi academy trust (MAT) positively complements provision.

Leaders have designed a curriculum that has high aspirations and inspires pupils to learn. Each curriculum subject is underwritten by a Bible verse deepening awareness of the school's Christian foundation. For example, science plans centre on Romans 1:20, acknowledging that all things have been made and happen because of God's divine power. At the heart of everything is a nurturing and empathetic concern to do your best. Evidencing this vision-rooted love in action, families are drawn to the school because of its holistic approach. Tailored and adapted support for those with additional needs ensures they access the education they deserve. Described as 'a place to be', spiritual moments are increasingly recognised throughout the day. However, there is the lack of a shared language of spirituality. This is restricting how the community can communicate their spiritual experiences in the wider curriculum. Learning opportunities are enriched by staff working together across the trust. Subsequent access to shared partnerships contributes very effectively to expertise amongst staff. After school clubs contribute to the richness of provision.

Collective worship is a special time to meet and focus on the Christian love which is at the centre of St Peter's Crosskeys. This daily focus further embeds the vision. Well-planned worship themes empower pupils to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world. Inspirational stories and engaging actions envelop those gathered. They become immersed in the narrative. Responses demonstrate a rich understanding of Christian beliefs as they relate biblical examples. All are invited to participate in a time of spiritual reflection. These quiet moments instil a sense of peace in many. As a result, prayer is very important in the life of this school. There is 'a place to be' in every classroom where pupils can reflect and write prayers. Although, the lack of a shared spiritual language inhibits the development of more spontaneous personal prayer. Christian foundations are instilled from the beginning. For example, a new starters' service is held in church where the youngest pupils receive a Bible from the congregation. Other regular services at St Peter's, foster a deepening spiritual awareness. They are very well supported by parents. Local Christians meet weekly to pray for identified needs reinforcing the connection. Such exceptionally strong links with the church and diocese make a positive contribution to strengthening the Christian character of the school.

Relationships are rooted in a transformational Christian love which is impacting the lives of pupils and adults. Biblical underpinning of each Christian value deepens understanding. For example, the value of dignity is based on Matthew 19:14 where Jesus welcomed everyone to come to him. This

leads to an uncompromising acceptance that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect. Pupils behave well because they reflect these values in their own lives. Leaders greet families as they enter each day, quickly resolving any issues. The school is highly regarded locally because of how it integrates pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Adults are trained in a wide range of therapies. For instance, therapeutic art helps to work through emotions and feelings. Leaders are justifiably commended for wholeheartedly living out the vision. Staff reciprocate by modelling the same values in their own lives. The partnership with the trust is highly valued by the staff team. Access to medical and counselling services positively supports wellbeing. It is much appreciated alongside shared working with trust colleagues.

A range of opportunities, including leadership roles, encourage pupils to have a sense of responsibility towards others. Curriculum provision and charity involvement enables an awareness of injustice in the wider world. Courageous advocate pupil leaders passionately describe how they are making the school a better place. They are beginning to challenge others to stand up for what is right. For example, they have recently encouraged their peers in responding to racism. Dedicated time for family groups to work together raises awareness of local and wider global issues. Forest school activities and gardening club deepen knowledge of the plight of the natural world and the impact of human activity. However, most initiatives are adult led and opportunities for pupils to initiate actions themselves are less well developed.

A creative curriculum contributes to the effectiveness of religious education (RE). The subject has a high priority and is well led. Leaders have ensured that the requirements for RE in a Church school are met. Comprehensive monitoring ensures that any gaps in the curriculum are swiftly addressed. Dedicated staff feedback time is allocated to discuss and update on any issues relating to the subject. Access to diocesan courses enables teachers to strengthen their own learning. Following recent training, the resource of Godly Play is being used very effectively with the youngest pupils. This was evidenced in how they were able to retell the story of Jesus' baptism with great clarity. Consequently, a vast knowledge of Bible stories across year groups is helping pupils articulate the teachings of Jesus and core Christian beliefs. Pupils are proud of the work they do in RE and understand its importance in helping them to respect others. They visit a local synagogue as part of their learning experiences. However, there are limited practical visits and real life opportunities to experience a wider range of cultures and belief.

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

Information			
Inspection date	21 May 2024	URN	143294
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	183
Diocese	Southwell & Nottingham		
MAT/Federation	Southwell and Nottingham Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Matthew Tomlinson		
Chair	Tessa Durham		
Inspector	Joy Hardy	No.	944