



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Longborough Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Longborough, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0QD
School vision	
<p>We show love, have pride and are safe.</p> <p>A school family at the centre of its village community, with a big outward looking heart, where all are enabled to shine as unique individuals, using their well of abilities to flourish as global citizens.</p> <p>(Isaiah 58:11)</p> <p>Underpinned by the values of compassion, courage and respect.</p> <p>Expressed in our motto: 'We show love, have pride and are safe'.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff, governors and members of the North Cotswold Schools Federation (NCSF) Trust are an effective leadership team with a strong commitment to the Christian vision. As a consequence, growth as a successful Church school is facilitated. • The vision is at the heart of the curriculum and informs strategic actions, which empowers pupils to shine as unique individuals. • There is wide-ranging and effective support for pupils and their families. As a result, pupils grow, achieve and flourish in personal, social and academic goals. • The practical outworking of the vision, what it means to love and be loved, brings about compassionate and respectful behaviours. This makes a significant contribution to pupils' self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities. • Religious education (RE) is a highly regarded subject in school. It enables pupils to have a good knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and beliefs. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop leadership of collective worship so there is a wider, shared understanding of the intended impact, to empower all pupils. • Increase opportunities across the curriculum for pupils to explore their own philosophical views and develop their sense of belonging in the world. • Extend pupils' occasions to choose and engage with social action, to increase their involvement and understanding of justice and equality. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision has brought hope and stability to Longborough School during times of turbulence. Effective partnerships between school leaders, diocese advisers and the trust has enabled the vision to drive strategic development. This is developing Longborough as an aspirational church school where pupils and adults can thrive. The school's history and links to the village are encapsulated within the vision. As a result, effective community relationships enable pupils to be proud of their heritage and enjoy participating in local events. The vision is understood</p>	

through carefully selected values of compassion, courage and respect. These are also expressed in their motto of 'we show love, have pride and are safe'. Consequently, even the youngest pupils understand and live out the vision. One example is students taking care of each other by showing true concern and empathy when someone is not well. Leaders ensure that the impact of the vision is captured, and feedback is used to strengthen and adapt procedures. For example, when parents, carers, and staff were concerned for the safety of the children, a fence was erected. Every opportunity is taken to ensure the pupils and adults flourish.

The vision threads through each curriculum area, enabling pupils to use their 'well of abilities' to succeed. Older students demonstrate their enjoyment of lessons through mature discussions, and understanding is seen in their books. Younger pupils are confident and curious and are given many opportunities to play, investigate and learn. Pupils are secure in their knowledge that there is a consistent interest in their lives and character development. This has led to calm, respectful behaviour. Year 6 exit interviews illustrate the vision has had an impact through carefully planned curriculum content. Pupils remember with fondness trips and topics. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) respond enthusiastically when discussing their lessons. They praise the support they receive to help them to realise their potential.

There is a deep and genuine sense of nurture within school. Governors and trust members fulfil their role with diligence. Their careful monitoring and evaluation enable Longborough to move forward in their desire to provide the very best education and care for pupils. The school has a carefully designed approach to enable pupils to develop spiritually. Staff understand and implement this effectively through opportunities such as joining the 'Young Voices' concert or learning about nature in art. Pupils easily express their 'ow', 'wow' and 'now' times. However, exploring their own place in society through philosophical questions is less evident.

Inclusivity and welcome, with the vision at its heart, is the essence of collective worship. An example of careful planning in worship is using the biblical account of feeding the 5000 to link with school values. The clear narrative, and effective use of props, enables an understanding of its meaning. Some pupils take away the messages of thinking about giving, or consider being brave by speaking out in front of a crowd. However, the intended impact to engage and empower pupils, is not evident in all worship times. An effectual partnership with St James' Church has provided welcome and useful support. Regular visitors acting out Bible stories, coupled with trips to St James' to mark special occasions, are valued by parents and carers. Opportunities for prayer, silence and reflection are deliberately planned to enable times for spiritual growth. These occasions are welcomed as a time to 'breathe slowly and think harder'.

Good mental health is seen as high priority within school, and reflected in leaders' actions, such as daily check-ins. This results in staff feeling supported in their wellbeing. School members speak of the 'Longborough Love', and this stems from the vision. It cements relationships as it is expressed between colleagues and students. Pupils feel very safe in school because their views are acted upon. Positive action is taken swiftly. Their requests for more creative play areas have been acted upon and now they enjoy active and reflection spaces. Learners who visit 'The Hub' pastoral care cabin feel supported in understanding their emotions. Consequently, pupils enjoy lessons with their peers, in addition to growing in self-esteem. School leaders are proactive in their care for staff and students during times of turbulence and change. Wellbeing days and fun activities, such as house point treats, lead to a climate of mutual respect and harmony.

New entrants to the school community experience the vision in action. Learners and staff use the vision themes of love and respect to inspire them. This sense of responsibility helps pupils coming from abroad to settle swiftly. They feel accepted and make friends easily. The use of restorative circles and playground buddies embed responsibility towards others. The Christian vision

encourages the school community to be outward facing and this is lived out by forging partnerships locally. Pupils fondly remember being a part of the Longborough Festival Opera, performing in the playground. They feel a sense of awe when singing together at Gloucester Cathedral with pupils from the family of Gloucester Diocese schools. The teaching team model respect towards others. Using resources that model diversity and celebrating people who have positively influenced others, inspires pupils. Teachers encourage charitable giving and actions, such as collecting for the harvest festival. However, pupils do not consistently discern how they would like to make a difference in our world. They have limited understanding of how they can affect justice and equality.

The Christian vision drives improvements in RE. Much work has been carried out by RE leaders to improve curriculum breadth and provision. Staff are well supported with thorough planning documentation and shared trust expertise. This leads to staff feeling more confident teaching a range of religions and world views. Consequently, pupils are confident and articulate their knowledge in RE. They are fully respectful of those with no religious affiliation. Moving the teaching of RE to the mornings has led to an increase in pupil motivation. One benefit is a deeper insight and explanation of a range of cultures and religious traditions. For example, younger pupils show and explain their Rakhi bracelets after learning about Hinduism. Older students are taught about being a Muslim in Britain today which supports their understanding of the diversity in our world. Exploration of their own philosophical and spiritual ideas are less developed.

The inspection findings indicate that Longborough Primary is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	19 June 2024	URN	149255
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	61
Diocese	Gloucester		
MAT/Federation	Federated - North Cotswold Schools Federation		
Acting head of school	Jayne Pryor		
Chair	David Gillett		
Inspector	Carol Dougill	No.	2116