

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools

Buxted Church of England Primary School

(SIAMS) Report

Vision

Aspire and Inspire

We want everyone in our school to aspire to be the best they can be. But we know we can't fulfil all of our potential on our own. We need help! And that help comes from the inspiration of God's love for us, the wonderful world He has created for us and the support of our wider Christian community.

Jesus told his disciples "I have come that they may have life to the full." (John 10:10)

Inspired by God, we aspire to be the best we can be, so that we can live life in all its fullness.

Strengths

- The vision, underpinned by six selected Christian values, is understood and deeply embedded. It binds the community together and drives decisions and actions. As a result, pupils and adults thrive.
- A well developed curriculum, shaped by the vision and values, ensures that pupils access experiences, which are treasured and remembered.
- Collective worship offers a range of spiritual encounters that enable pupils and adults to reflect deeply on their own lives and those of others.
- Leaders have high aspirations for all pupils. This creates a school that focuses on meeting individual needs. Thus, it transforms the lives of pupils and their families.
- Pupils have a good understanding of justice. They engage in a range of activities to make changes that impact on the lives of others.

Development Points

- Use the shared understanding of spirituality to expand the rich and varied opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum and beyond.



Inspection Findings

Buxted Primary School is a happy and joyful place to be. The school's vision, underpinned by clearly understood Christian values, weaves its way explicitly through all aspects of school life. Both the vision and values are embedded and embraced by the whole school community. They are clearly displayed around the school. This means that pupils are aware of their importance and know what they look like in action. This creates a welcoming culture where care and love for each other is palpable. Pupils draw upon the language of Christian values and speak with confidence about how it shapes the choices that they make. This leads to a deep awareness of the impact the vision and values have on their lives and that of others. Staff incorporate the vision and values throughout learning bringing aspiration and inspiration. Pupils thrive due to the strong relationships with the adults who teach and care for them. Decisions made by the leaders stem from the vision. As a result, adults and pupils have a strong sense of belonging and a flourishing school community.

Built carefully around the vision and values, the curriculum is clearly structured and delivers a broad range of quality experiences. This has the result of exciting and motivating pupils in the classroom and beyond. Enriching visits and sporting activities add to the enjoyment of learning. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about visits and clubs such as choir and cross country. Consequently, pupils rise to the high expectations set for them. Pupils who are vulnerable, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are provided for well. There is an inclusive approach that ensures pupils have equitable access to the curriculum regardless of starting points. In this way staff provide a well rounded learning experience. For example, the school welcomes new families. They settle well making strong friendships and are an integral part of the school community. Opportunities for spiritual development are considered and planned for by leaders. However, sometimes these lack variety limiting the depth of pupils' spiritual development.

Collective worship is a powerful expression of the vision and values. It is a cherished part of each day. All are welcomed to join in and recognise that it is a special time to grow together in faith. Worship makes a significant contribution to the way adults and pupils grow spiritually. It is planned thoughtfully, offering opportunities for reflection, response, prayer and singing. Pupils become immersed, making contributions that reflect a deep understanding of the teachings of the Bible. They value prayer, and are invited to join in with The Lord's Prayer at the end of worship. This provides a time for stillness and individual reflection. Prayer spaces around the building and the new reflection area outside are well received and used by pupils. The relationship between church and school is seamless. Clergy lead worship weekly and are a constant presence in the school. Parents, pupils and staff find them approachable and their interactions with them deepen their spiritual growth.

Leaders bring stability to the school. Every person is known well and a feeling of hope permeates the community. Consequently, school is a source of comfort and support during challenging times. Relationships between members of the school community are strong. Pupils know that they can speak to an adult at any time and that they will be listened to. They openly comment that they 'love this school and everyone in it'. Consequently, pupils feel valued and empowered. Parents express their high regard of staff and leaders at the school because of the care and consideration they are shown. They welcome the regular communication and the open-door policy. Parents are valued and well informed, their opinions are sought and considered. There is a strong focus on supporting all pupils. Those with SEND especially appreciate the exemplary provision they receive. Staff are given adequate time to fulfil their leadership roles effectively and consequently feel appreciated and cared for. They acknowledge that leaders are mindful of and give consideration to their work-life balance. As a result, staff regularly go the extra mile.



The school's vision creates a culture of high expectations. A focus on fairness and justice exists amongst the school community. Pupils understand the importance of good relationships and this creates a culture of support across the entire age range. They are unafraid to stand up for what is right. Pupils consider action and engage with the world openly and honestly over environmental issues and homelessness. They relish the opportunity to take on positions of responsibility. Roles such as green team, sports leader and school council generate enthusiasm and pride. Older pupils find the responsibility of being buddies for the younger ones rewarding and take the role very seriously. Pupil led initiatives such as selling preloved school uniform at parents' evenings benefits the school community. Activities including litter picking in the local area also helps the environment and benefit the community beyond the school. Valuable partnerships with local church, schools, sports groups and the diocese impact positively on the life of the school. This makes it a school at the heart of its community.

There is a strong commitment to Religious Education (RE) expressed by the headteacher and the governors. This ensures it has a high profile. Pupils enjoy RE lessons because they challenge their thinking and widen their experiences. Engaging activities, such as using drama, art, video, music and prayers, lead to a greater depth of understanding. Therefore, pupils are knowledgeable about a range of faiths and beliefs. They can talk about a selection of Bible stories, other cultures and religious traditions with confidence. The new RE leader is well supported through strong links with the diocese and colleagues in local schools. The recently introduced curriculum provides clear progression, adding depth as pupils move through the school. Training for staff is given priority. They regularly access a range of opportunities that enhance their knowledge. This raises the quality in pupils' experiences of the RE curriculum.

Information

Address	Buxted CE Primary, Hurstwood Road, Buxted, Uckfield, TN22 4BB		
Date	18 September 2024	URN	114493
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled Primary School	No. of pupils	191
Diocese	Chichester		
MAT/Federation	South Ashdown Federation		
Headteacher	Karen Head		
Chair of Governors	Hanna Froger		
Inspector	Anthony Cosans		