

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Litton Church of England Primary School

Vision

1 Corinthians 12v27 All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Mark 10 v14 '...Jesus said let the children come to me, do not stop them because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these...'

We are stronger as a group than individuals and together we are Christ's presence in the world. Litton School draws together different parts of our wider community to make a place where the children at its heart can flourish, learn and thrive.

Litton Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- Leaders know the community and needs of the pupils and families well. The Christian vision and supporting values are a golden thread that connects aspects of school life. This impacts on learning and relationships and ensures pupils and adults thrive.
- Collective worship is highly valued by both pupils and adults and impacts on their spiritual journey. Being biblically rooted, it gives a strong moral sense of right and wrong, uniting them as a community, with pupils at the centre.
- Pupils and adults are treated well in a safe and supportive environment. This enables them to live, learn and work together as a successful team.
- Religious education (RE) is passionately led and given a high priority in school. The curriculum is balanced and well-structured, meeting the needs of the pupils. This is reflected in learning where pupil engagement is high and full of enjoyment,
- Mutually beneficial partnerships between the school, families, the wider community and the church are particularly strong. This demonstrates their commitment to togetherness. As a result Litton Church of England Primary School's effectiveness as a Church school is enhanced.

Development Points

- Embed a shared understanding of the school's approach to spirituality so that pupils and staff can confidently discuss and express spiritual growth.
- Extend the scope of opportunities for pupils to understand and respond to issues faced by global communities. This is to deepen pupils' understanding of how they can make a difference through their own actions and impact lives further afield.



Inspection Findings

Litton Church of England Primary School is a positive and welcoming place, as a result the sense of togetherness and belonging stand out. The Christian vision of being 'stronger as a group than individuals' reflects this completely and those involved in the community genuinely feel part of a 'family'. The school is an effective Church school at the heart of its community. Leaders, including governors, know and understand the pupils and families they serve. There is a strong commitment to understanding the lived experience of pupils and families in order to meet their individual needs. As a result high quality learning, care and support is provided in an environment built on openness and respect.

The school's Christian vision, underpinned by these values, is central to all aspects of school life. The vision is evident through the interactions and conversations taking place throughout the school. One pupil stated 'well, it's what makes our school, our school, isn't it'. Pupils from the oldest to the youngest are compassionate towards each other and also within the wider community. Respectfulness is key in relationships and kindness is the norm. This demonstrates the faithfulness of staff and pupils to living out the school's Christian values daily. With helping 'children to flourish' at the heart of the vision, a prime aim is to nurture responsible and respectful individuals. This approach, adopted by staff and families, is reflected in the community and extends to transition to secondary school.

As pupils are taught in mixed aged classes, careful consideration has been given to the structure of the curriculum. It has been developed to meet the needs of the pupils, avoiding repetition and ensuring progression. It reflects the Christian vision and underpins the values effectively. The community is incredibly proud of its heritage and the school has incorporated this within the curriculum. Pupils enjoy their learning and speak about it with enthusiasm. Wide ranging opportunities are available to the pupils through an extensive range of experiences that broaden horizons. These include sports, music, various workshops and school visits. For example the school visited the Space Centre and had samples of moon rock brought in for the pupils to investigate. Pupils enjoy 'flashbacks' at the beginning of lessons. This gives them time to recall previous learning and make connections ready to acquire new knowledge and skills. Opportunities to discover new words, talk and think deeply are important and help with learning. Staff work effectively with pupils with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). They ensure their needs are met and that they have full access to learning experiences. Pupils are given some time to consider their own opinions and ask questions. They also experience times of awe and wonder, reflecting on nature in their outdoor space. Some of these opportunities are also planned for, such as watching caterpillars change into butterflies and setting them free. These 'magical moments' are important times. However, the school has not embedded a shared understanding of their approach to spiritual development. As a consequence, the range of opportunities for spiritual expression are sometimes restricted.

Daily collective worship is highly valued by both pupils and staff. It is well structured, invitational and allows for reflection, belonging and joy. Led by staff, clergy, visitors and pupils it is a time to come together and think for the Litton community. Lighting a candle, singing the school song and offering opportunity to respond is meaningful and moving. Pupils particularly enjoy celebrating their successes in 'Star of the Week' and are excited to nominate their friends in the 'Gold Book'. This gives them the opportunity to share the values of 'friendship' and 'openness', and show compassion for one another. It is a space valued by members of the school community and contributes to their spiritual journey. Collective worship provides an opportunity to reflect on current issues, linked to Christian values and relevant biblical teaching. As a result, pupils are challenged to relate this to their daily lives. The close



relationship with the church further enhances spiritual development within school. This is through regular visits and joining in special events such as Harvest, Christingle, Christmas and Easter.

Relationships in school are exceptionally strong. There is an openness and sense of belonging. The Christian vision 'being stronger as a group' resonates and is essential in their small school setting. Leaders, including governors, take staff wellbeing very seriously. It is a priority and staff appreciate this, as a result they are cared for and this helps them to thrive. Initiatives such as the staff 'secret buddy' system, support the ethos of togetherness and bring the Christian values to life. Constant communication between staff ensures that individual pupil needs are fully understood. Staff development is also a priority, with lots of high quality opportunities available. Pupils from the youngest to the oldest look out for each other ensuring that pupils always have someone to turn to. In the classroom 'worry monsters' are there to help with concerns and a 'worry monster' workshop has also taken place. This develops confidence and resilience. The vision of togetherness is at the heart of everyday life and parents notice this, in particular how kind and respectful the pupils are.

Pupils are excited and aspire to be part of eco or the school council, taking on responsibility for planning the school discos and 'movie nights'. They enjoy fundraising, and do so for a large number of organisations, such as Children in Need. Currently, pupils are devising games for the Christmas Fayre to raise money for Water Aid. Pupils enjoy taking part in the historic 'Wakes Week' in the village. They Maypole dance, sing and are proud of their heritage. Through these groups and activities, pupils have some opportunity to understand the world in which they live, particularly at a local or national level. However, they are not always aware of the impact that these undertakings have. Opportunities for pupils to respond to issues faced by global communities are also more limited. Pupils lack a depth of understanding of how they themselves can make a difference and impact the lives of others further afield.

RE is seen as a very important subject. The curriculum is well planned and structured. Different approaches and high quality resources facilitate pupils to build secure knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. Governors monitor the effectiveness of RE through visits into school. Revisiting key findings is key in the governors' work, to ensure change has been implemented. For example, when reviewing the curriculum, governors, along with other leaders, ensured the Christian vision was 'golden thread' throughout. As a result, the RE curriculum is strong.

RE teaching is effective. Pupils enjoy RE learning. Many say RE is their favourite subject, because they enjoy opportunities to question and discover new things. They like exploring RE through art and music, finding it engaging. Lessons begin with a 'big question' and teaching strategies enable pupils to connect with prior knowledge enhancing learning over time. Learning is adapted to pupils, whatever their needs, making it fully accessible. Assessment is ongoing and is used skilfully, ensuring challenge is offered as appropriate. As a result, pupils make good progress and achieve well.

Information

Address	Litton, Buxton SK17 8QU		
Date	25 November 2024	URN	112886
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	46
Diocese/District	Derby		
MAT/Federation	NA		
Headteacher	Caroline Hicks		
Chair of Governors	Gill Howland		
Inspector	Wendy Rose		