

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

### Newton Longville Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart’ Colossians 3:23

Our vision derives from our theological roots and is woven throughout school life. We work at everything with all our heart; striving to be the best we can be. This ensures the entire school community flourishes in an environment that celebrates learning and individuality, with everyone reaching their full potential; spiritually and academically.

Newton Longville 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

- The vision and values underpin school life. They provide a shared language which animates an aspirational school community who serve one another with goodness and love.
- A shared understanding of spirituality has led to a range of planned and spontaneous opportunities for pupils to reflect deeply across the curriculum.
- Pupils and adults at Newton Longville are personally known and embraced. They, and their achievements, are championed and celebrated. As a result, pupils and adults feel a deep sense of belonging and wellbeing.
- Religious education (RE) is a valued subject. The strong curriculum offer provides opportunities for pupils to be inquisitive learners. This extends their understanding of a diverse range of worldviews, including Christianity.
- Collective worship is a special part of the day. The school community spend time together in a calm and reflective atmosphere. It contributes to their spiritual flourishing through time to reflect and act upon vision and values.

#### Development Points

- Embed opportunities for deeper thinking about challenging injustice across the curriculum. This is to help pupils to take ownership of their actions to make their school and the world a better place.
- To enable explicit opportunities for pupils to consider their own worldview in RE. This is to help pupils understand why different people hold diverse views and express beliefs differently.



## Inspection Findings

Rooted in biblical teaching, the distinctively Christian vision unites the community at Newton Longville school. This vision inspires members of the school community to be the best they can be, with and for each other. As a result, pupils and adults thrive here as they are recognised and celebrated for who they are. Five Christian values of compassion, respect, aspiration, friendship and thankfulness are embedded in the life of the school. They naturally inform conversations about learning, behaviour and attitudes. The governors use the vision to monitor and evaluate the way in which the school operates on a day-to-day basis. Leaders draw upon diocesan expertise to support their development as a Church school.

The school's vision underpins an aspirational curriculum. Pupils proudly and confidently pursue their learning 'with all their heart'. Skilled adaptation ensures that the curriculum is accessible to pupils, whatever their individual needs. High-quality professional development, relationship building with families and investment in relevant resources further enhance provision. This enables those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and those considered vulnerable or disadvantaged, to succeed. Spirituality is intrinsic to the curriculum. It is seamlessly and expertly woven throughout subjects. Leaders use the language of 'wows, ows and nows' to identify planned and spontaneous opportunities across subjects for deep reflection. For instance, pupils experience 'wow' moments of awe and wonder through forest school. Pupils benefit from comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities. This includes a wealth of clubs, trips and visitors. These provide pupils with opportunities to develop their skills, understanding and character. For example, visits from Commando Aaron have helped pupils develop their teamwork and resilience.

Collective worship holds a special place in school life. It is carefully planned in ways that are inclusive, invitational and inspirational. Worship is valued as a daily oasis of calm to reflect together and celebrate one another. It is seen by staff as a time 'to be part of a spiritual moment together as a community'. The Bible is imaginatively explored in ways that constantly refer to the vision and values. Clear opportunities for reflection are enabled through the framework of 'windows, mirrors and doors'. This allows the community to reflect upon choices they can make for the flourishing of themselves, others and the world. With support from the local church, pupils often take the lead in shaping and leading worship. This is impactful, helping the community contemplate virtuous living in fresh ways. Pupils talk about their reflections regularly at home, sharing stories and their thoughts on topical issues. Monitoring and evaluation of worship leads to improvements in worship. Recent changes to gathering and sending routines have enabled a more reflective atmosphere, which contributes positively to spiritual flourishing. Partnerships with the parish church and other Christian organisations contribute richly to the spiritual life at Newton Longville.

The vision is a tangible reality here; pupils and adults thrive as they feel valued for who they are. Pupils have regular opportunities to think about, celebrate and express their own individuality. They tie this closely to the school's vision, recognising that 'we all have unique things we pursue with our heart'. Pupils also recognise others' individuality, aspirations and needs. They acknowledge, respect and support each other's differences. As a result, pupils enjoy and are proud to be a part of this compassionate school. In rare instances that disagreements happen, restorative conversations are used to good effect to move forward positively.

Staff love working at Newton Longville. The vision and values of the school have both a professional and personal impact. They delight in 'working with their whole heart' to ensure pupils and adults flourish now and in the future. As they know their classes well, they tailor support for learning and mental health. This care, arising from the vision, is reciprocal. Sensitive decision making from leaders and governors show the deep levels of care for staff.



Their wellbeing has benefitted from access to professional development, family days and support to flourish in their roles.

Within school, there is a strong sense of compassion. This flows out of the desire to see people and the planet flourish. This aspiration inspires pupils to live the values in practical, loving ways. This is seen, for instance, through the 'buddies' system where older pupils support new starters as they commence school. Pupils recognise and value when their peers support them or others in learning and social times. Some are animated by the vision to support the planet or those in need locally. Pupils support safe travel, planting initiatives and a range of charities. However, opportunities for classes to consider the root causes behind injustice and inequalities are often missed. Pupils do not express a clear sense of how tackling injustice helps people to make important changes in the world.

RE is strong at Newton Longville. The subject is well-led and has benefitted from diocesan support. Leaders have ably introduced a new syllabus, giving staff support and resources to teach the subject well. Effective monitoring and evaluation drives improvements in the subject. Pupils progress well as a result of a well-planned and engaging enquiry-based curriculum. A range of approaches are well matched to support pupil learning about religion and worldviews. This includes analysing and creating artwork, investigating texts, debates and visiting places of worship. Assessment is timely and meaningful, helping teachers know how well pupils are learning in RE. Pupils know how well they are achieving in lessons. However, they are less sure as to exactly what skills are needed to be good and get better at RE.

Through their RE, pupils explore beliefs that sit at the heart of living religious traditions. As they do so, they have a range of opportunities to think about their own beliefs. Pupils confidently make comparisons and identify similarities and differences between religions. This includes a growing understanding of diversity within Christianity. The curriculum does not provide regular, explicit opportunities for pupils to consider their own worldview and factors which shape it. As a result, they are less sure why they and others believe or act in diverse ways. Pupils benefit from visits to the local church to learn more about Christian beliefs and practice. They enjoy RE lessons and frequently talk about their learning at home.

## Information

Address	School Drive, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire, MK17 0BZ		
Date	22 November 2024	URN	110440
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	201
Diocese	Oxford		
Headteacher	Judith Trainor		
Chair of Governors	Alex Titley		
Inspector	Ryan Parker		