

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Corfield Church of England Infant School

Vision

Achieve, Believe, Care.

'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds...' – Matthew 5:16

Our firm belief is that all pupils should be given the opportunity to shine. We strive to give each of our pupils the confidence and skills needed to be a kind and compassionate member of the community. We work together to help them believe in themselves and teach them that they truly can make a difference. We use the teachings of Jesus to support our pupils and families to aspire to be the best they can.

Corfield Infant 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

- Staff create a caring and nurturing environment where pupils and adults are known, loved and respected for the unique individuals they are. This creates a sense of belonging and supports pupils, including those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable, to flourish.
- Religious education (RE) is enthusiastically and knowledgeably led. The curriculum is well-balanced and is carefully adapted to ensure it is relevant to the context of the school.
- The Christian vision is lived out powerfully through the curriculum. Together with an extensive range of inclusive teaching strategies, pupils are motivated and become successful learners.
- Shaped by the vision, collective worship is carefully planned and developed. This ensures it provides meaningful opportunities for prayer and reflection to nurture the spiritual growth of both adults and pupils.

Development Points

- Establish a shared language and collective understanding of spirituality across the school community. This is to extend and deepen how pupils and adults express the impact of these experiences on their spiritual growth.
- Expand opportunities for pupils to address and challenge injustice within their local community. This is to foster a deeper sense of personal responsibility and encourage them to take meaningful actions that positively impact on others.



Inspection Findings

Corfield Church of England Infant School provides a nurturing and inclusive environment where pupils are supported to flourish. The school champions pupils' learning, wellbeing and spiritual growth. This fosters a community based on respect, kindness and inclusion. Leaders uphold a clear vision, rooted in Christian teachings, which is intricately woven into numerous aspects of school life. Guided by the Christian vision, the school creates an environment of respect and care. This enables pupils and adults to flourish and reach their full potential in a safe and inclusive setting. Adults work together to ensure pupils thrive academically, socially and spiritually. Active governors are deeply committed to the school, carefully monitoring its effectiveness as a Church school. This involvement ensures that decisions are closely aligned with pupils' needs. The deep partnership with the local church strengthens the school's Christian identity, with the vision being seamlessly integrated into daily life. The Christian ethos of the school is embodied by the Corfield 'C' and its image of a shining light. This nurtures a culture where pupils feel valued, celebrated and motivated to achieve both academically and personally. Pupils' unique achievements are celebrated, reflecting the school's commitment to recognising their individual journeys.

The school's curriculum is deeply aligned with its Christian vision, ensuring it nurtures both academic achievement and spiritual development. Christian values such as love, care and respect are integrated into areas of learning, shaping the way subjects are taught. The curriculum is designed to enable and encourage pupils to 'achieve, believe and care' by embedding these principles into learning. High academic expectations are balanced with a nurturing approach, ensuring pupils have opportunities to achieve their full potential. Through their learning, they are encouraged to believe in themselves and their abilities. Pupils at Corfield exhibit a profound passion for their learning, taking great pride in their accomplishments. Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and RE lessons help pupils reflect on their role in caring for others and the environment. Moments of awe and wonder are integrated into subjects such as science and nature studies, fostering a sense of connection with God's creation. The recent redesign of the curriculum, including the introduction of the forest school programme, provides diverse learning opportunities. Adapted initiatives, such as Fresh Air Fridays and specific sports sessions, promote teamwork and resilience. This holistic approach ensures the curriculum reflects the school's commitment to living out its Christian vision. Ongoing staff training, combined with productive collaboration with external agencies, strengthens the support provided for pupils with additional needs. Leaders' unwavering commitment to inclusivity is clear, particularly in its work with pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

The Christian vision is evident in the inclusive, welcoming and highly valued approach to worship embraced by the entire school community. Pupils actively contribute to worship through meaningful actions, such as carrying a candle to signify its start. Feedback from pupils consistently highlights their enjoyment of worship, with many identifying it as their favourite part of the day. Worship provides opportunities to reflect on Bible stories and engage with elements such as prayer, singing and quiet reflection. This fosters a deeper connection to faith and personal growth. However, there is no shared language around spirituality. This limits pupils and adults' ability to express how worship impacts on their personal views, values or sense of spiritual wellbeing. External partners play a valuable role in leading and contributing to worship. They provide fresh perspectives, sharing their experiences of faith and enriching the community's understanding through diverse approaches. The school's strong partnership with the diocese and local clergy is instrumental in developing worship and pastoral care. Collaborative events with the church, including Harvest and Advent celebrations, deepen pupils' understanding of the Christian faith.

Adults cultivate strong relationships with pupils and their families. The warm greeting from staff on the gates creates a sense of togetherness and welcome which enhances relationships between home and school. Staff collaborate closely with families to facilitate smooth transitions and encourage active participation in aspects of school life. Parents consistently praise the school's supportive ethos, highlighting the emphasis on kindness and the positive outcomes it fosters. With clear communication and attentive staff, concerns are promptly addressed.



The school's behaviour policy promotes dignity and respect, focusing on restorative approaches to help pupils understand the consequences of their actions. This plays a pivotal role in cultivating a positive and supportive community where children feel respected. Leaders empower pupils to participate in decision-making processes, such as setting classroom rules, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for their learning. Lunchtime interventions and peer support further help pupils develop self-esteem and build lasting friendships. This creates a tight-knit community where pupils grow in confidence and compassion, and staff feel valued and supported. The positive impact of pupils helping each other is evident in the sense of care and support within the school. Older pupils taking on leadership roles to guide and support younger children promote a culture of empathy, responsibility and teamwork. These interactions strengthen relationships across year groups and build key social skills such as communication, cooperation and conflict resolution.

Through its Christian vision, the school is deeply committed to serving the wider community. They are an active member of the local area and often participate in events with the purpose of helping others. These efforts include donating to the local food bank charity. They also organise fundraisers such as the 'Reindeer Dash', a cause that is particularly meaningful to the school. Through this, the school supports Treetops Hospice by raising funds to support children who have experienced bereavement and loss. The school's involvement in this is inspired by their vision. The strong community and church links creates a sense of responsibility towards others. However, opportunities for pupils to demonstrate their personal responsibility towards others through challenging injustice are limited. As a result, they are not aware of the positive impact they can have on their local community.

The RE curriculum is meticulously structured to ensure consistency across all year groups. The curriculum is well-balanced, providing opportunities for pupils to consider a diverse range of worldviews and faiths. This helps them develop an understanding of, and mutual respect for, differing beliefs and perspectives. Pupils gain an understanding of Christianity as a global faith. They learn about Christian traditions and practices across different countries and cultures. The RE lead ensures that the curriculum is engaging and accessible, with opportunities for pupils to participate, regardless of ability. Cross-curricular links with subjects such as English, maths and PSHE enrich the learning experience. Special 'WOW' days celebrate global cultures and religions, broadening pupils' understanding of the world.

Information

Address	Thorpes Road, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7GQ		
Date	02 December 2024	URN	112826
Type of school	Maintained Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	81
Diocese	Derby		
Headteacher	Jennie Hill (Acting Headteacher)		
Chair of Governors	Duncan Smith		
Inspector	Daniel Walls		