

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

### Hertford St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

Love Learning - Aim High - Trust God

Our vision inspires us to ask questions. How do we help pupils to love learning? Are we aiming high? Does our school reflect our trust in God? These questions support us in our job of teaching and learning.

Hertford St Andrew's Church of England 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 school's Christian vision creates a calm and caring environment where pupils and adults feel important.
- The school offers a challenging and interesting curriculum that helps pupils to develop confidence, resilience and a love of learning.
- Collective worship is an important part of the school's spiritual life. It includes and inspires both pupils and adults.
- Staff are focused on inclusion, making sure pupils receive the support they need to do well.
- A culture of care and pastoral support ensures that well-being is prioritised for both pupils and staff.

#### Development Points

- Fully embed the school's Christian vision across all aspects of school life. This is so that the vision shapes daily experiences, guides decisions and inspires ambition, enabling an inclusive and purposeful school culture.
- Strengthen RE through developing a consistent approach towards assessment. This is so that pupils deepen their understanding, think critically and connect religious concepts to their own lives and experiences.
- Expand opportunities for pupils and staff to explore and express their spirituality. This is so that spirituality becomes a natural part of daily life, enriching personal growth, reflection and a sense of belonging.



## Inspection Findings

Hertford St Andrew's is a thriving school, guided by its Christian vision: "Love Learning, Aim High, Trust God." This is inspired by Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine." The whole school community contributed to a review of the vision. This has already made a noticeable impact. It has created a stronger sense of purpose, belonging and aspiration across the school. Leaders are intentionally embedding this vision into daily school life. The Hertford St Andrew's Way (HSA Way) ensures core skills are actively taught and lived daily. Governors play an active role, regularly engaging with the school. They take part in special events to see the vision in action. The school has a calm, welcoming and focused atmosphere. Pupils feel increasingly valued and inspired to succeed. While these changes are already making a difference, leaders recognise that the vision is not fully embedded.

Hertford St Andrew's is a caring and nurturing school where pupils and staff feel safe, valued, and included. The HSA Way helps pupils learn kindness, respect and perseverance, so everyone can do their best. Leaders provide sensory spaces, quiet areas and pastoral care to help pupils feel secure and ready to learn. Staff take time to build trusting relationships, making sure every pupil feels safe and able to thrive. The school has a dedicated team, including a Family Worker and Mental Health Lead, to help pupils and families. As a result, targeted support strengthens well-being, resilience, and a sense of belonging within the school community. The well-being of adults and pupils remains a priority for leaders. They aim to build on progress so every pupil and family feels fully supported in school and beyond.

The school teaches pupils about justice, responsibility and making a positive difference. Inspired by St Andrew's example, pupils learn to stand up for what is right. They welcome others and use their talents to help their community. The curriculum helps pupils think about real-world issues, exploring fairness and justice in history, English and RE. The school goes beyond financial charity by encouraging pupils to give their time and effort. They take part in projects like collecting birdwatching data and learning leadership skills through the School Council. St Andrew's Day explores justice, helping pupils consider ethical choices and how their actions affect others. Pupils feel confident using their voices and taking responsibility.

The school's curriculum reflects its Christian vision, giving every child the chance to love learning, aim high, and trust God. A key part of this is the school's 10 for 10 programme. It gives pupils daily opportunities to develop essential skills in reading, writing, speaking, prayer, reflection, music, fitness, and creativity. This structured approach helps pupils build confidence, develop resilience and find enjoyment in learning. It nurtures spiritual growth by encouraging thoughtful thinking, fostering purpose, and deepening understanding of faith in daily life. Leaders have worked hard to make learning engaging and relevant, ensuring the curriculum connects with pupils' experiences and inspires curiosity. The curriculum also encourages pupils to think about justice, fairness and their place in the world. This is particularly evident in history, English and RE. Consequently, lessons are calm and engaging with pupils enjoying their learning. Teaching is ambitious and uses creative opportunities to support learners. The school is committed to adapting lessons to meet the needs of its community. Pupils, including those with additional needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are well supported through tailored approaches, enabling them to thrive and achieve success.

Collective worship is a key part of daily life at Hertford St Andrew's. It helps pupils and staff reflect, grow spiritually and feel part of a caring community. The school follows a simple model that makes worship inclusive, inviting, and meaningful. This allows pupils to engage through music, storytelling, and reflection. As a result, pupils develop a clear understanding of Christian teachings and values. The school has a strong partnership with Hertford St



Andrew's Church and the diocese. Clergy and church members lead services, offer prayer meetings and support spiritual growth. Worship is designed to be accessible to all, with adaptations for pupils with SEND. Pupils are fully engaged in worship and visitors notice the joyful and peaceful atmosphere. Worship provides a calm and reflective space where pupils and adults come together to think and grow.

RE at Hertford St Andrew's is an important part of the curriculum. It helps pupils explore faith, ask big questions and respect different beliefs. The school ensures that RE is engaging and inclusive. Storytelling, creative activities and discussions help pupils to understand Christianity alongside other religions and worldviews. Lessons start with big questions, encouraging pupils to think deeply and relate religious teachings to their own lives. To help pupils remember key ideas, the school uses drama, poetry and group discussions. These activities make learning meaningful and enjoyable. Teachers receive ongoing training, which leaders regularly review in order to maintain high-quality teaching. The curriculum is well-structured. Pupils revisit past learning through discussions and creative tasks, helping them build confidence in expressing their ideas. However, assessment in RE is inconsistent, making it harder to track progress and deepen pupils' understanding. Governors support RE through visits and curriculum discussions, ensuring it remains central to the school's vision. The engaging and reflective approach to learning ensures that pupils develop a deep appreciation for faith, values and the world around them.

## Information

Address	Calton Avenue, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG14 2EP		
Date	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	URN	117397
Type of school	Voluntray Controlled	No. of pupils	138
Diocese/District	St Albans		
Headteacher	Rebecca Cooper		
Chair of Governors	Stuart Aldridge		
Inspector	Anthony David		