

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Norton-sub-Hamdon Church of England Primary School	
Address	Church Lane, Norton sub Hamdon, TA14 6SF
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>'I have come that they may have life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) underpins the foundation of school life and our vision to enable every child to flourish.</p> <p>We develop young people with a spirit of curiosity, creativity and respect who are prepared with the knowledge, skills and adaptability to thrive in the ever-changing world; to live life in all its fullness now and in their futures.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply held Christian vision is lived out in the school. The vision underpins the actions of school leaders. • The school is highly inclusive of all pupils and their families. In line with the vision, adults are aspirational for all pupils to be the best that they can be. • Collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision. It encourages pupils to become strong advocates for local and global change. • In line with the Christian vision, opportunities for reflection and the development of personal spirituality are included in the curriculum and collective worship. However, outside these times, pupils do not have sufficient opportunities for reflection and spiritual enrichment. • The recently revised religious education (RE) curriculum and assessment model expresses the school's Christian vision but is not yet fully embedded.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase opportunities for pupils to engage in personal reflection in different ways in order to develop their personal spirituality. • Support the teaching and embedding of the revised RE curriculum. This is so that pupils flourish in their learning in RE.



Inspection findings

Norton-sub-Hamdon Primary School has a deeply held Christian vision which drives the actions of leaders. Leaders are committed to enabling all pupils to have life in all its fullness. Governors effectively monitor the school as a Church school and are involved with its daily life. Supported by the vision they engage positively with change to benefit all members of the school community.

The school benefits from close working partnerships with their local church, community and diocese. By sharing curriculum planning and extra-curricular provision with its federation partner, leaders enhance staff wellbeing and pupils have additional opportunities to thrive. Staff workload is monitored and a Jubilee Garden to support the wellbeing of all was created by the local community and diocese. Norton school enjoys a supportive relationship with its parish church. The rector is well-known in the school and supports pupils in their appreciation of the breadth of Christianity. Pupils attend the church for the annual leavers' service, and to celebrate major Christian festivals. The school is well supported by volunteers from the local community and church who contribute to the delivery of the vision by, for example, hearing readers and supporting gardening. An Open the Book group from the parish visits the school regularly to deliver worship based on Bible stories. Pupil involvement in the dramatisation of Bible stories helps them to reflect deeply on the meaning of the stories. The diocese supports the school with professional development for Church school leaders.

Collective worship is central to the school day. It is well planned with themes based upon the school's Christian values of respect, community, aspiration, endurance, compassion and thankfulness. These values are known by everyone and are apparent in daily life. The delivery of collective worship is enriched by the range of staff, pupils and visitors who lead it. This reflects the school's Christian vision encouraging inclusivity. Pupils enjoy worship through music sessions and this adds variety to their worship experiences. Worship is invitational and offers opportunities for prayer and reflection which pupils value. Pupils see Christianity as a living world faith and through collective worship enjoy the opportunity to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. A pupil said that he wishes to be like the Good Samaritan and help people at playtime. The school's vision inspires pupils to take social action. They lead initiatives to support aid for global disasters such as the Syrian earthquake and engage in local events such as litter picking. Pupils are committed to looking after God's world and relate this to the Bible story of the Creation. Consequently, eco committee pupils are proactive in encouraging the community to cut carbon, recycle and support wildlife. This continues to have an impact on school life. Character and moral development of pupils is important to the school. Pupils are given opportunities to take leadership roles and responsibilities by joining a range of school committees. Pupil voice is strong and pupils contribute to the running of their school. Their opinions are valued as shown by a Year 2 pupil effecting the refurbishment of a school playhouse.

The school has extensive and well-equipped grounds which support children in realising the beauty and importance of God's world. Awe and wonder moments abound as they enjoy stillness and watch butterflies. Forest school provision enhances the school's broad curriculum and pupils' experiences are richer for the opportunity to learn outside. However, there is a lack of reflection and prayer spaces within the school building. Extra-curricular provision supports the school's vision of holistic development for pupils by offering a wide range of activities. All pupils have the opportunity to enjoy residential visits which enrich their learning experience. A Year 5 pupil said about gorge walking, 'Everything in the world is absolutely beautiful, even when you're icy cold.' The school supports families by providing wrap around care through breakfast and homework clubs. This is in response to parental

requests. Parents appreciate all that the school does to support their children and them. They enjoy belonging to this school family, feel included and know that their voices are heard. Pupils enjoy school and attend well. There is a calm and caring atmosphere across the school. Behaviour is good because pupils appreciate the school values and recognise that good relationships are built upon forgiveness and reconciliation. Behaviour and achievement in line with the school's Christian values of respect and aspiration are rewarded and celebrated with the whole school and families.

Norton is a highly inclusive school. The curriculum is successfully made accessible to all pupils. Pupils are nurtured and personalised interventions, academic, pastoral and emotional, are effectively overseen by the special needs coordinator. A highly successful programme of support is delivered by an emotional literacy support assistant who works with identified pupils. Interventions are monitored and tailored to support individual pupil progress. Activities such as participating in a local Boccia tournament demonstrate the school's commitment to enabling all pupils to enjoy a rich programme of opportunities. Showing the school's vision in action, pupils say that they feel supported and always have someone to turn to. A new pupil said he felt as if he had always belonged to this school. Pupils are respectful of others' differences and enjoy welcoming new pupils into their classes.

RE effectively expresses the school's Christian vision and supports pupils to see Christianity as a living world faith. Pupils enjoy RE and are developing knowledge and understanding of a range of world religions. There is little professional development offered to support the delivery of RE. RE classrooms provide safe spaces where pupils reflect and discuss what they are learning, with respect for each other's opinions. Pupils are encouraged to ask big questions. Having studied the Easter story a pupil asked, 'What happens when you die?' A Year 6 child said that RE helps them to understand why some people believe.

This is an effective Church school where leaders enable pupils and adults to flourish through the daily outworking of their firmly established Christian vision and values.

Information			
School	Norton-sub-Hamdon Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	4 May 2023
URN	123818	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Bath & Wells	Pupils on roll	100
Executive Co-Headteachers	Jamie Caswell and Liz Stiddard		
Chair of Governors	Sophie Staple		
Inspector	Alison Appleyard	No.	877