

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

St Catherine's Hoddesdon Church of England Primary School	
Address	Haslewood Avenue, Hoddesdon, EN11 8HT
School vision	
<p>' Let Your Light Shine' Matthew 5:16</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distinctively Christian vision is clearly understood by all. Leaders accurately express how the vision is relevant to the context of the school and local community, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.</li> <li>• Pupils understand how to help and improve the lives of others and are eager to develop further opportunities to be agents of change.</li> <li>• The school is highly supportive and inclusive of all pupils. The wider community accurately speak highly of the work the school does to enable all to flourish.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) enables pupils to have a clear understanding of a range of world faiths, including Christianity.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend ways in which all experience opportunities to develop spiritually and how the impact of this can be readily expressed. This is to enhance the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.</li> <li>• Embed robust systems to evaluate the impact of the Christian vision across all aspects of the school's work. This is to ensure leaders' ambition of the impact of the vision is fully realised.</li> <li>• Develop opportunities for pupils to be proactive leaders for change. This is to enable them to develop their own voice beyond their immediate locality to challenge injustice.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>The school's vision, recently developed by senior leaders, is beginning to be known, and lived out, within the community. It reflects leaders' optimism and ambition for all. However, its impact is not fully evaluated by leaders to ensure impact is realised in all aspects of the school's work. Leaders accurately articulate why they feel the vision is relevant for their community now and as they look towards the future. An example is the sense of deep optimism and hope shown by the interim leadership team. This ambition provides a focus for their accurate reflection on areas to develop further. Pupils thoughtfully share ways in which the school helps them to be aspirational. This includes the support they are given in all aspects of school life. Parents are right to compliment its work and how it encourages every child's 'light to shine.' St Catherine's is the school of choice for many families due to the support and sense of togetherness they experience. It is an inclusive school and the community it serves is diverse. Families are immensely grateful for the love and compassion they are shown. Strong relationships infuse life at St Catherine's. As a result, pupils with a wide range of needs, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) have the opportunity to thrive.</p> <p>Collective worship is inclusive for all pupils and is well-planned. However, opportunities for spiritual development through collective worship are limited. Leaders rightly identify they are at an early stage in</p>	



their work on spirituality and are working to embed recent training in this area. Some pupils share how worship is important to them and they 'can learn so much from it'. Its invitational nature allows all to participate. There are opportunities to answer questions and to reflect on the Bible stories they hear. Pupils exuberantly sing songs purposefully chosen which are linked to the message of the worship. This provides some with meaningful moments for spiritual growth. They enjoy their visits to St Catherine's and St Paul's Church for worship at times of significance in the Church calendar. These enhance pupils' understanding of Anglican traditions and provide moments to reflect. Worship plans cover a range of values, however, it does not yet sufficiently reflect the revised vision in its inspiration for all.

Parents speak highly of the inclusive nature of the school and the support their children are given. Through the excellent relationships that have been forged, pupils interact well together. Their wellbeing takes priority in the school. Pupils speak highly of the care adults take to listen to them and understand how they can be helped. They are appreciative of the time adults take. Staff share their gratitude for the professional development that leaders provide them with to 'let their light shine'. They speak highly of the support they are given to engage in development opportunities. Some articulate the positive way that being part of St Catherine's has enriched them professionally and personally. Staff recognise the spirit of togetherness which is evident throughout the school.

Through collective worship and the wider curriculum, pupils learn about local charities and the impact they can have on people's lives. Pupils encounter examples of injustice and engage in social action enthusiastically. The school vision inspires pupils to 'let their light shine' through their fund raising activities. This enables them to develop their own worldviews and enhance their local area. Pupils are encouraged to engage with the wider community across the town, for example through their work with Love Hoddesdon. The school demonstrates how it listens to pupils to allow them to develop their voice. However, pupils do not yet know ways in which they can be agents for change. Opportunities to engage in activities that have an impact on the wider world are also underdeveloped. Pupils have a strong sense of morality, encouraging each other to do the right thing, referencing their learning in worship.

Opportunities for prayer and reflection exist throughout the indoor environment. Classroom spaces allow children to be still and reflect. However, these are not consistently well-developed. The extent to which adults and pupils can describe their understanding of spirituality is underdeveloped, as are opportunities for their spiritual growth. Consequently, this limits the ways pupils flourish spiritually. The impact of recent training on a language of spirituality is in its infancy. Through their cycle of monitoring, leaders are accurately aware of the need to enhance spirituality throughout the school. Leaders are beginning to ensure that spiritual development is a priority in the school.

Through planned provision, including a sensory corridor, pupils' mental health needs are taken into account to allow them to access the curriculum. Staff know pupils and their families well. Consequently, the strong relationships that have been forged enable pupils to succeed. The school closely monitors pupils to ensure they are able to offer the best pastoral support they can. This includes working diligently on pupil attendance, enabling pupils to access school through their 'Bagel Bar' initiative each morning.

RE is well-planned. Leaders have taken decisive action to improve the breadth and relevance of the curriculum. The impact of this is that the curriculum content is now more carefully sequenced.

Expectations for pupils to achieve well have also been raised. Leaders engage with professional development to drive improvements across the school. Pupils think critically about Christianity and texts from a range of world faiths. They look for similarities between world religions, comparing celebrations for example. This enables them to respect and understand the views of others. The link between British and Christian values is made explicitly. Therefore, pupils know that British values such as the rule of law, are influenced by Christianity. Pupils enjoy RE lessons and are eager to learn. The curriculum successfully supports pupils' understanding of diversity in Britain and around the world.

The inspection findings indicate that St Catherine's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	18 September 2023	URN	133773
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	368
Diocese	St Albans		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Jo Devonshire		
Chair	Peter Falconbridge		
Inspector	Ben Hodson	No.	2,231