

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Englefield Church of England Primary School	
Address	The Street, Englefield, RG7 5ER
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
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p>Our loving environment cultivates the foundations of mutual respect and the understanding that every child is special in God's eyes. Our children are the seeds from which we will build a brighter future. We nurture and nourish them so they grow and flourish.</p> <p>'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches'. Matthew 13 31-32</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear Christian vision is linked firmly to Jesus' parable of the mustard seed. This inspires deep levels of nurture and respect, enabling all to flourish. • The strategic leadership of the school is effective. However, monitoring of the Christian vision of the school is not sufficiently robust. • The Christian vision inspires all to engage in social action for their local community. Opportunities to develop global awareness, however, are underdeveloped. • Collective worship lies at the heart of each day and is a joyous expression of the Christian vision. This ensures that all are nourished spiritually. • RE contributes well to pupils' religious literacy, allowing pupils to recognise and respect a diversity of beliefs. However, pupils' understanding of Christianity as a world faith is at an early stage.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders to develop a more systematic and rigorous process for monitoring and evaluating the school's Christian vision. • Enhance pupils' awareness of how they can be global agents of change. This is in order to make a meaningful difference in the world, beyond the local context. • Enrich pupils' awareness and understanding of Christian belief and practice as a living faith around the world.

Inspection findings

There is a deep feeling of togetherness and love at Englefield. The vision, based on the parable of the mustard seed, reflects the rural context well. Like the surrounding trees and plants, both pupils and adults grow and thrive in abundance. The associated values, particularly 'love of God's world, love of life', can be seen in action all around the school. Dedicated senior leaders and staff ensure that pupils have many opportunities to reflect on the school's vision and associated values. Governors utilise financial and human resources effectively, so that all pupils and adults are able to 'sow the seeds for a flourishing future'. The school's inclusive admissions policy reflects the vision appropriately, making it clear that all are welcome at Englefield, regardless of their background or faith. This is evidenced by the way the school has warmly embraced refugee families with love and kindness in recent months. At present, the monitoring of the Christian vision by leaders lacks precision. This means that monitoring is not focussed enough and areas for improvement as a Church school are not identified clearly. Strong partnerships exist with parents and also with the diocese. This provides valuable support, leading to school improvement.

Reflecting the Christian vision, the school provides a wide breadth of enrichment activities and many extra-curriculum opportunities. These include a thriving choir, football, gardening, art, science and street dance clubs. Pupils are engaged in exciting, enquiry-led learning. They talk about how it is preparing them for their future when they will become 'branches from the seeds sown here'. Many, including members of the eco group, are passionate about the environment. They reflect on the importance of actions such as litter clearing around the school. Activities, such as Woodland Learning, the bee-keeping and outdoor clubs, utilise the school's beautiful setting. These provide rich opportunities for spiritual development. All pupils in Key Stage 2 have opportunities to attend annual residential trips to a variety of venues. As a result, their aspirations are raised as they grow in confidence, independence and resilience. This embodies the school's vision and values fully.

The school is at the heart of village life, enjoying close links with the local church and community. This includes combining events such as the annual village flower show with the school fete. Singing at local care homes exemplifies the school's values. Pupils are compassionate and show care for the wider world. This is demonstrated by fund raising projects for charities, often initiated by themselves. At harvest, families donated food to the foodbank run by the local charity, New Beginnings. Involvement in these activities means that pupils are beginning to understand that they can be advocates for change within their community. Leaders recognise that national and global initiatives are underdeveloped.


Inspired by the vision, there is a focus on highly effective pastoral care. There are many effective strategies in place to look after everybody's mental health and wellbeing. This is a strength of the school. For example, daily calming activities are undertaken as part of the 'Space Makers' initiative. These ensure that pupils have opportunities to be still and see things in a more positive light. The school's use of 'therapeutic thinking' results in good behaviour and pupils are able to make positive choices. Any disputes are resolved through restorative discussions and a plan for the future. This approach results in a calm and purposeful atmosphere in school. A Year 6 pupil rightly noted that it is ok to disagree as long as you respect the other person. Older pupils are trained 'mental health champions' enabling them to help themselves and each other, particularly when times are difficult. They thrive on responsibilities given to them and take pride in providing care to younger children. Staff are also nurtured and developed well. They speak of the close relationships that they have with one another. This is supported by leaders in very practical ways when required. Staff training is seen as a high priority and all are encouraged to succeed. This is another example of how

the vision to 'sow the seeds for a flourishing future' is applied to all.

Collective worship is a joyful and uplifting experience for pupils and staff alike. It is fully inclusive and invitational. All talk positively about its impact and the way it shapes the life of the school. Spiritual wellbeing is well supported, especially by the local clergy. The start of collective worship is quiet and reflective, giving pupils space in their day, which they value greatly. The worship group make a good contribution to flourishing, particularly to spiritual development. Their weekly prayer group and reflective spaces are especially enjoyed by pupils of all ages. Monitoring of worship is effective. This is because it involves all pupils, such as assembly monitors, staff and governors, which leads to continuous improvements. Celebrating success is pivotal to witnessing 'the seeds grow' at Englefield. The whole school community, including parents, relish the very special moments created during the regular celebration assemblies.

Effective leaders ensure that the RE taught at Englefield is of high quality. Good practice is shared successfully with other local schools. RE meets the needs of every pupil by offering a range of support. This includes working with less able pupils so that they keep up with the pace of learning, while offering challenge for more able pupils. As a result, all pupils flourish in the subject, whatever their needs or backgrounds. Leaders ensure that RE meets the requirements of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. The school uses the diocese scheme of work and the Understanding Christianity resource to plan and sequence learning effectively. However, pupils' understanding of Christianity as a global, diverse faith is underdeveloped.

Englefield's vision encompasses everything the school stands for, empowering everyone to succeed. This is making a difference to the lives of all pupils and adults.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	<p>RE is seen as a core subject and is taught with skill and imagination. Pupils make progress in line with or above other subjects. Pupils respond positively to their learning because teaching is consistently good. RE is effectively assessed by teachers and monitored well by leaders. Most pupils meet the age-related expectations of the Oxfordshire diocesan syllabus.</p>			
Information				
School	Englefield Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	7 February 2023	
URN	110011	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Oxford	Pupils on roll	111	
headteacher	Hilary Latimer			
Chair of Governors	Chris Gittins			
Inspector	Jenny Earp	No.	288	