

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Radnage Church of England Primary School	
Address	City Road, Radnage, HP14 4DW
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>Nurture. Grow. Shine.</p> <p>We take inspiration from the Parable of the Mustard Seed, Mark 4: 30-32. Our school is the ground onto which our children, the seeds, are sown. We provide the nurturing environment which is essential to help them grow from their beginnings, no matter how small, and become mighty trees, shining brightly in the world and nurturing others, just as the tree supports and shelters the birds.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's deeply embedded Christian vision is understood by everyone. It creates exceptionally harmonious, respectful, and supportive relationships, enabling the Radnage community to flourish. • Nurture and inclusion are paramount across the school. Pastoral care and support is highly effective. This enables the Radnage community to flourish. • The school's recently revised curriculum is broad, stimulating, and inclusive. It incorporates opportunities for spiritual growth within the school's context. • Pupils are central to delivering and evaluating collective worship and this drives continual improvement. Opportunities for prayer and reflection are currently being extended to include the school's outdoor spaces. The school supports other local schools to become pupil-led worshipping communities. • Religious education (RE) is of high quality, valued by all, and led by an highly effective RE practitioner. Consequently, pupils flourish in RE. In addition, local schools benefit from Radnage's willingness to share their RE knowledge and expertise .
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further embed opportunities for prayer and reflection to maximise the spiritual growth of the whole community. • Expand the range of partners that the school supports. This is so that others can benefit from the notable impact of collective worship and RE of this school.



Inspection findings

Through a deeply considered and exceptionally well-embedded Christian vision, a sense of nurture and love permeates Radnage Church of England Primary School. Leaders, united by their vision, strive to enrich the lives of everyone, enabling all to flourish within an aspirational learning community. Governors articulate with clarity how their vision shapes every aspect of school life. They offer rigorous yet appropriate challenge to school leadership, creating an ethos of continued improvement. Furthermore, the ambitious and passionate headteacher and staff team ensure the Christian vision is worked out strategically and operationally. Through adopted policies and practice that exemplifies the school's strong Christian commitment to diversity and inclusion, they enable change for all. Consequently, pupils grow, shine and flourish at Radnage in accordance with the school's vision.

The school's broad, thoughtfully-devised curriculum is the driving force behind pupils' academic and spiritual development. It is designed to help every child grow and shine and addresses their needs holistically. The school's emphasis on discussing, investigating and reflection enables pupils to make rapid progress in their learning. Through their high level of expertise and skill staff create a culture in which pupils are confident to think for themselves. As one child recounted, 'I have star of the week for asking 'Why?' - I love doing that!'. Furthermore, pupils are offered innovative curriculum and extra-curriculum responsibility. For example, pupils take complete responsibility for the school library. They choose and purchase books from a budget they own and organise related activities. Pupils' roles are wide ranging and include an attitudes ambassador, chief journalist, and site manager. These opportunities keenly reflect the school's vision by enabling pupils to shine. Additionally, leaders have a deep and robust understanding of what spirituality means in the context of their community. Consequently, the curriculum incorporates inspiring occasions, such as learning in their forest school, for pupils to explore spirituality. As a result, pupils' spiritual growth is flourishing.

RE is highly effective and is exceptionally well led. Excellent support is given for staff to build on their strong subject knowledge. Stimulating, immersive experiences and creative activities within RE enable pupils to develop a deep understanding of worldviews. Additionally, pupils have a robust, age-appropriate understanding of Christianity as a living world faith. The curriculum includes opportunities to visit places of worship and to welcome guests who represent different faiths into school. Pupils enjoy their work in RE and show impressive levels of insight when discussing challenging questions. Lessons provide a safe space for pupils to explore differences. Pupils discuss religious and spiritual viewpoints with confidence. This is because they are given the skills they need to talk about, understand and live with contradictory convictions. RE teachers share their highly effective practice locally and look for further ways to support others.

Inclusion is at the heart of Radnage. It is an indisputable strength of the school and keenly reflects its vision. Parents of children who need additional help to access learning say that their experience of inclusion at Radnage exceeds their expectations. This is because of the all-encompassing acceptance of their children by the whole school community. For example staff and pupils across the school learn sign language to aid communication with all. For some pupils, the school creates life-transforming opportunities. For example, pupils who join the school from elsewhere settle swiftly and attend regularly. Their accelerated learning means they quickly reach age related expectations, thus preparing them for the next stage of their education. Additionally, the school's Mental Health First Aider (MHFAider) supports pupils in managing their emotions. At Radnage, inclusion means that the possibility of wholeness is made real for its community.



Expert guidance from staff empowers pupils to nurture and support each other. Through a process of forgiveness and reconciliation pupils learn how to resolve conflicts. This creates confident, self-resilient pupils who learn and live well together.


Collective worship is fundamental to the spiritual life of Radnage. Through worship, pupils are developing a thorough, age-appropriate understanding of Christian theology and liturgy. Collective worship is pupil-led and valued by the school and its community. It is extremely well planned, engaging and invitational to all. Pupils explain that 'collective worship is where we unite as a school.' Pupils and leaders rigorously evaluate the impact of worship so that it conscientiously addresses the needs of the community. For example, as a result of evaluation, the school is creating additional opportunities for outside prayer and reflection. Parents, governors, and church clergy regularly attend worship. They remark on the inclusiveness and sense of joy they experience during these occasions. The impact of worship extends beyond the school gate. As one parent explained, 'We are not a family of faith, but it has been a delight to watch our daughter grow her own faith here.' The school's exemplary collective worship has been used to support pupil-led worship at other local schools. Leaders actively seek opportunities to expand this service for the benefit of the wider community.

Pupils are ambitious to act on messages they receive during collective worship. They are keen to bless others and eagerly identify positive ways to do this. For example, one child started a food drop, and this has escalated to include the village community. Pupils set up tabletop sales to raise money for various charities. Furthermore, the school has a long-standing partnership with Walser's Tanzania Charity which supports education and teacher training. Consequently, pupils make positive, age-appropriate contributions to the local, national, and international community.

A strong and successful partnership within the parish enables purposeful, deep links between the school, church, and the local community. Two noteworthy examples are a joint-owned allotment with produce shared between the school and village and a road safety campaign benefitting the local community. In addition, the headteacher speaks during Sunday services to encourage stronger links between the school and local church. The school has capitalised on wider partnerships to maximise its practice. These include teacher training at Reading University, research to develop education with Buckinghamshire Education Authority and a reciprocal relationship with Oxford Diocese Board of Education.

Staff morale is high because everyone feels respected and supported. The cohesive relationships amongst staff exemplify the school's Christian vision. Staff talk with enthusiasm about the influence for good they achieve by modelling the vision. Staff's dedication to the school's vision shapes pupils' behaviour. They are generous with their time and commitment to their school and its community. They speak with a Christ-like love for the pupils they serve. Through an attitude of Christian service, the community of Radnage works together to the benefit of all. The school is well placed to continue to grow and develop as an exemplary Christian community.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>The quality of teaching and learning in RE is dependably of a high standard. The curriculum is thorough and creative. It engages pupils fully as they develop skills such as discussion, analysis, and investigation. Assessment is rigorous and learning gaps are addressed quickly. Through accurate monitoring systems leaders ensure that standards are high and lead to improvements. This results in pupils making at least good and often accelerated progress.</p>			
Information				
School	Radnage Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	17 March 2023	
URN	110467	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Oxford	Pupils on roll	84	
Headteacher	Sam Browne			
Chair of Governors	Mike O'Donohue			
Inspector	Delia Sheppard	No.	942	