

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Maids Moreton Church of England School

Vision

‘Small enough to care, large enough to inspire.’

Our school provides a Christian foundation for life, a respect for and understanding of, the beliefs of others, and welcomes all children who wish to come to our school. We pride ourselves on being ‘small enough to care and large enough to inspire.’

We aim to provide a safe, happy and caring environment, rooted in our Christian values of love, truth, perseverance, forgiveness, courage, thankfulness, respect and service, in which all our children can develop fully their social, moral, spiritual, physical and academic potential.

‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’ Philippians 4:13

Maids Moreton 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

- Maids Moreton’s distinctive Christian vision is deeply embedded and underpins relationships and strategic developments. It is built upon a shared understanding of the school as a loving community and enables adults and pupils to flourish.
- The curriculum inspires and motivates pupils. It ignites their desire to learn and reflects the school’s vision to inspire and succeed. Carefully selected extracurricular activities enrich the breadth of learning.
- This is a community built on love. The school’s values underpinning the vision, promote exemplary relationships. Purposeful and mutually beneficial interactions beyond the school enhance this and support community cohesion.
- Opportunities for spiritual flourishing in collective worship and the wider life of the school are commonplace. Consequently, pupils and adults have a profound understanding and appreciation of the world and their place in it.
- Religious education (RE) is a highly valued subject and is carefully planned. It enhances opportunities for pupils to be inquisitive learners and enables them to make good progress.

Development Points

- Agree a formal system to enable governors to monitor and evaluate the vision, collective worship and RE. This is so that their findings feed into development planning, resulting in the continued flourishing of adults and pupils.



Inspection Findings

The shared vision of being ‘small enough to care, large enough to inspire’ wonderfully describes this nurturing community. With its supporting verse from Philippians, this unites the community of Maids Moreton. It meets the needs of its local context by fostering a hope and assurance that emboldens adults and pupils to succeed. A recent expansion to include Key Stage Two pupils reflects how the vision drives strategic development. Careful planning and implementation by leaders ensure that pupils continue to be nurtured on their extended journey at this school. The vision is underpinned by Christian values that are central to interactions and personal development. Pupils confidently explain how these promote flourishing. Leaders engage with the diocesan education team and undertake appropriate training to promote the development of the vision. Governors embrace the school’s Christian foundation and vision. However, their monitoring is not sufficiently regular and rigorous to ensure that their evaluations drive continuous development planning.

Staff are ambitious for pupils to succeed. This is reflected in the aspirational nature of the curriculum which is shaped by the vision. It encourages pupils to be inquisitive, reflective learners who actively engage with the world in which they live. This is further advanced through a range of extracurricular activities such as the wide variety of trips that are built into the curriculum. Opportunities to grow spiritually are intentionally woven within different subject areas. Whilst studying World War I, pupils learn about soldiers past and present in their local community and meet with a local war veteran. They decorate the local village rose garden for Remembrance Day and sell poppies. In this way, the curriculum is extended beyond learning, to action and provides meaningful opportunities for spiritual flourishing. Skilled support and adaptation of the curriculum, and detailed knowledge of individuals’ abilities, ensure that it meets specific needs. This empowers pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to succeed.

RE is led with dedication and experience resulting in a curriculum that is balanced and challenging. It is carefully planned to identify links with previous units of work so that it continually builds on prior learning. It expertly makes provision for the acquisition of knowledge, the development of skills and the exploration of personal beliefs and values. Topics such as ‘What do clothes say about our beliefs?’ ensure a curriculum that is relevant and engaging. Detailed and profound questioning, such as exploring how modesty reflects the way that people dress, develops deep thinking. Carefully chosen resources and artefacts enhance the curriculum. The time and value placed on RE, including support from diocesan advisers, ensure that it has a high status within the school. Pupils’ understanding of Christianity is profound. They learn about it as a global faith. They have a relevant and deep understanding of a range of faiths and non-religious worldviews. Occasions to visit places of worship, such as a mosque and churches, further promote understanding.

As a result of high-quality teaching, pupils develop a good understanding of major religions and worldviews. This deepens their awareness of diversity. Appropriate assessment systems and regular monitoring ensure that pupils, including those who have SEND or are disadvantaged, make good progress. Gaps in learning are quickly identified and addressed enabling those of all abilities to achieve their potential. Pupils enjoy their learning in RE. It is taught creatively and makes relevant links between religions and how those of faith live their lives. Practical activities such as exploring Wudu, whilst studying Islam, embeds learning and promotes understanding. Pupils rightly acknowledge how RE enables them to reflect and discuss their own values and beliefs within an environment of mutual respect.



Daily worship binds the whole school community together as a time that is highly valued. Pupils and adults benefit from experiencing different styles of worship, led by staff and pupils. Meticulous planning enables worship to be open and accessible to everyone. Leaders effectively monitor the impact of worship. This ensures that it is shaped by the vision and its Anglican foundation. The established relationship with members of the local church is cherished by the whole school community. This enriches worship through their involvement in its planning and meaningful presentation. Opportunities to gather in the local church are greatly appreciated and inspire awe and wonder. Worship provides precious moments to be inquisitive and reflect as school values are explored through Bible stories. These are linked to more recent people and events. For example, the value of courage is explored through the biblical story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. This is then developed in learning about modern day individuals who inspire this value. In this way, pupils are inspired to be more courageous in their own lives. Consequently, worship underpins the excellent behaviour evident in the school. It also expertly develops pupils' and adults' understanding of their own place in the world. This, together with the many opportunities to sing, reflect and respond ensure that opportunities for spiritual development abound.

Active involvement in the local community and beyond motivates pupils and adults to bring about positive change. This is driven by the desire to live out the vision, recognising the Christian belief that all things are possible through Christ. Expressing values of service and love are evident in the exemplary and mutually beneficial relationship with the local care home. Meaningful interactions and joint activities shape lives and promote individual flourishing. Pupils and adults know that their efforts make a difference to the lives of others. Staff raising money for a national charity and pupils helping to develop the local play park are illustrative of this. The desire to develop responsibility for the world and to secure positive change is woven throughout the curriculum. Pupils reading a novel about asylum seekers in literacy lessons are inspired to act and write letters to the Home Secretary. They are rightly proud of both their efforts and the response that they receive. They know that their voices have been heard and could make a difference to the lives of others.

As a result of the Christian vision and the values underpinning it, a sense of love and care permeates the school. Staff are overwhelmingly supportive and appreciative of each other, resulting in a strong and effective team. Appropriate training facilitates their professional development. They are united in their commitment to those in their care. They are focused on meeting specific needs. Wellbeing and good mental health are prioritised, resulting in the flourishing of adults and pupils. This is illustrated in the careful planning and preparation to ensure that the first Year 6 cohort have a smooth and supportive transition to secondary school. Clubs and activities take place at lunchtime to ensure that all who want to can take part. The gifts and talents of individuals are embraced and celebrated. This boosts self-esteem and promotes confidence. As a result of exemplary support and care, individuals confidently embrace the vision. They know that they are cared for and are inspired to succeed.

Information

Address	Avenue Road, Maids Moreton, Buckinghamshire, MK18 1QA		
Date	27 January 2025	URN	110438
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	101
Diocese	Oxford		
Headteacher	Keira Ainsworth		
Chair of Governors	Alistair Brizell		
Inspector	Joanna Brookes		