

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hook Norton Church of England Primary School			
Address	Sibford Road, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 5JS		
Date of inspection	7 May 2019	Status of school	VC Primary
Diocese	Oxford	URN	123097
Overall Judgement			Good
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?			
Additional Judgement			
The impact of collective worship			Good
School context			
<p>Hook Norton is a primary school with 261 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are White British. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is just above national average. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below the national average. The school expanded to be a 1.5 form entry in 2017 in order to meet the needs of new housing developments. The highly regarded headteacher will retire at the end of term after many years of dedicated service.</p>			
The school's Christian vision			
<p>'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Matthew 22:39) is the cornerstone for our vision and underpins our core purpose. We encourage children to Live in harmony, Love our neighbour like ourselves, Care for each other, Think before we speak or act, Learn from our mistakes and Dare to dream'.</p>			
Key findings			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exceptionally strong Christian leadership of the headteacher has created a vibrant learning community in which every member flourishes. • Each pupil is treated as an individual and through 'Live, Love, Care, Think, Learn and Dare', they develop a love of learning and enthusiasm for life. • The school's broad, vibrant curriculum is shaped by its Christian vision. In particular, the global learning programme at the school is a considerable strength. • Acts of worship make a significant contribution to pupils' understanding of the school's Christian vision and values and how they make a difference to their everyday lives. • RE has a high priority at the school and is very well led. Pupils develop age appropriate skills of enquiry, critical analysis and interpretation. 			
Areas for development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for pupils to have a deeper awareness and understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith. This is so that pupils can understand the connection that Christianity has with Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide. • Increase all governors' engagement levels in strategic development of the school as a church school in order to support and sustain the impact of the school's Christian foundation. This is particularly important in the light of impending changes in headship and clergy. 			

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Hook Norton's Christian vision is firmly rooted in biblical theology. All six values of live, love, care, think, learn and dare are linked clearly to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. These are understood and put into action effectively by all in this happy, nurturing school. By living the values, the school is a community that considers the needs of everyone. Governors have well-established and purposeful systems for monitoring and evaluating the school. However, not all are adequately involved in monitoring the school's Christian foundation. Although the vicar of St. Peter's Church retired recently, the foundation governor ensures that links with the church remain strong and productive. This can be seen in the way the after-school church club, JAM (Jesus and Me) is thriving and church leaders still lead worship regularly at the school. Staff say they are upheld by pastoral and spiritual support from the church. Leaders are committed to ensuring that staff are well supported in the development of their understanding of the school as a church school. There is a very low turnover of staff at the school because they feel happy and well guided in their professional development. This has meant that none have left to take up leadership in other church schools. The issues from the previous inspection have all been addressed successfully.

The headteacher and the leadership team provide strong Christian leadership that is driving forward improvements in achievement. Pupil attainment at the school is high and all make good progress, including vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs. Staff go the extra mile to ensure that pupils are safe and happy. The school's creative, exciting curriculum includes many global partnerships, including a long-standing link with a school in Sweden. The school has recently taken part in an inspirational Erasmus project, about which both adults and pupils spoke with excitement. Each year group has visits, for example, to Weston super mare, Hill End Outdoor Centre and Yenworthy. These and other extra-curricular opportunities, including sport, art and music enable pupils to thrive and excel in different areas. As a result, pupils flourish academically and spiritually in an environment of loving your neighbour.

Pupils gain an understanding of what it means to be compassionate through strong support for many charities. These include Thrive, The Trussell Trust, Christian Aid, and the Tear Fund project. They understand that supporting charities is an important way of loving your neighbour as yourself, reflecting the school vision. Pupils say they enjoy helping others by being Well Being Ambassadors. A Year 6 child said, 'it helps us to be a reflection of Jesus'. Pupils are beginning to gain an understanding of the need to work for justice as they explore differences in the way people live. Because of this, they have a strong respect for diversity and compassion for others. Loving my neighbour inspired pupils to write to the council to ask for a local road to be made safer for everyone. They were successful advocates in this and other local projects.

The school supports the good mental health of both pupils and adults very well through a range of initiatives such as Change for Life. In particular, Zones of Regulation and Make Me Smile Day are effective in enabling pupils to express their feelings and emotions. This means that pupils are given strategies to confront difficulties and develop resilience. Governors believe they have a strong duty of care towards the staff. As a result, adults are treated with dignity, care and respect in a working environment where wellbeing is given a great priority. The vision for the school as a loving Christian family, serving its community, underpins highly supportive, respectful relationships. For instance, the kindness and generosity of the headteacher in supporting staff in times of difficulty or need is particularly appreciated. Staff recognise that this is another example of the way in which the school's Christian vision is seen in action. Deeply embedded Christian values have a strong impact on pupils' excellent behaviour and their positive attitudes to life and learning.

Collective worship enthuses everyone in the school community and is an important way in which the Christian vision is shared. It is greatly enriched by input from pupils in the Young Christian Leaders team, who take an active role in planning and leading worship. The inclusive, inspiring collective worship secures a sound knowledge of important Christian beliefs, and festivals. Bible stories, music and reflection enable members of the school community to appreciate the wealth of Anglican worship. Vibrant reflection areas in each classroom support the understanding of prayer and Christian values effectively. Pupils explain how prayer helps them to

cope with difficult situations and fears. The 'Wow, Wishes and Worries' boxes are especially valuable in this regard. Prayer Space weeks offer beneficial opportunities for all the school community to have time to reflect.

Teaching and learning in RE is good and the subject reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement and vision well. The experienced RE leader monitors the subject proficiently, ensuring that the curriculum is thought-provoking and enjoyable for all pupils. Pupils exhibit an informed and respectful understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. This could be seen in a lesson about the big question, 'What's the sell-by-date?' Lively discussions about beliefs, values and actions help pupils to recognise that looking after the earth is linked to biblical teaching. An Understanding Christianity Day, linked to the vision, enabled the whole school to work together using a new resource to deepen understanding of Christianity. Pupils' understanding of Christianity as a living world faith and its influence on Britain's cultural heritage is at an early stage. Hook Norton is a school where love your neighbour as yourself is seen at every turn.

Headteacher	Stella Belgrove
Inspector's name and number	Jenny Earp 288