

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

### New Hinksey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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| <b>Address</b>            | Vicarage Road, Oxford, OX1 4RQ |                         |                      |
| <b>Date of inspection</b> | 26 September 2019              | <b>Status of school</b> | Voluntary Controlled |
| <b>Diocese</b>            | <b>Oxford</b>                  | <b>URN</b>              | 123142               |

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| <b>Overall Judgement</b>     | <b>How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?</b> | <b>Grade</b> | <b>Requires Improvement</b> |
| <b>Additional Judgements</b> | <b>The impact of collective worship</b>   | <b>Grade</b> | <b>Requires Improvement</b> |

#### School context

New Hinksey is a primary school with 156 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. A significant number of pupils are from the Muslim community. Many pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below the national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is broadly in line with the national averages. The headteacher has been in post for 16 years. Ofsted rated the school as 'Good' in March 2019.

#### The school's Christian vision

##### 'We are all special, we can all succeed'

We strive to provide a high quality education where everyone is valued and included, and where we can all flourish, exploring the joy of learning and developing curiosity, creativity and spirituality within a respectful and nurturing setting. Luke 19: 1-10

#### Key findings

- The school's motto of 'We are all special, we can all succeed' underpins the school's work and relationships within the school. The vision is not understood by all to have its roots in the Christian faith, which affects the grade at this denominational inspection.
- This is a highly inclusive school where everyone celebrates difference and everybody is treated with dignity and respect.
- The areas for development from the last inspection have not been sufficiently addressed. Pupils are unclear how the values of the school, discussed during collective worship, are distinctively Christian.
- Pupils make limited progress in religious education (RE) because planning and assessment are not rigorous enough.
- This is a school at the heart of its community. Pupils and adults feel cherished so that they have high aspirations for themselves now and in the future.

#### Areas for development

- Develop the vision for the school so that it is understood by all to be distinctively Christian and rooted in theology. Ensure that this vision is used to monitor the effectiveness of the school as a church school so that it explicitly drives both policy and practice and is expressed through the school environment.
- Continue to empower pupils so that they inspire the whole school community to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change both locally and further afield.
- Develop an assessment system that builds on previous learning so that all pupils are challenged to achieve their very best in RE.
- Enable pupils to plan, lead and evaluate collective worship so that they fully understand the distinctively Christian values of the school.

## **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**

New Hinksey is a school where everyone does indeed feel special and encouraged to succeed. This is because the staff know the children really well and believe everyone is worthy of their time and effort. The vibrant learning displays in the classrooms and communal areas celebrate the school's rich curriculum. There is little in the environment to show that the school is a church school. Pupils and adults flourish because they have high aspirations for themselves, now and in the future. The vision for the school is based on a desire to serve its diverse community through its motto of 'We are all special, we can all succeed'. The school does not perceive itself as being distinctively Christian. This is because leaders have not explored what it means to be a church school within its own community. Governors cannot articulate how biblical teachings underpin the school's vision. This has an impact on all areas of school life. Policies do not reflect a Christian vision. The areas for development from the last inspection have not been sufficiently addressed to bring about real change.

Parents speak warmly of the school, praising staff and the headteacher. They see the school as a place where 'children thrive' because of the small class sizes and commitment of the staff. All pupils attain well at New Hinksey and make good progress. This is because staff know their pupils well and are 'eager for every small step of progress'. Staff understand that this is one way that 'we are all special, we can all succeed' is lived out on a daily basis. The curriculum is well-thought out so that it interests the pupils and they develop a joy of learning. There are whole school themes which encourage pupils to think deeply and this helps to develop their spiritual life. Reflection is a regular part of the learning process. Despite being on a very restricted site, staff are adept at exploiting the many resources available within the city of Oxford. Frequent visits to the school allotment, local museums and open-spaces ensure that all children have a wide range of experiences. In this way, the vision of enabling all to succeed is lived out because pupils receive a high-quality education, developing curiosity and creativity.

The school is a welcoming place where everyone, regardless of their background, feels included. Pupils speak feelingly about how it is important to 'treat everyone with respect'. This is why they enjoy their RE lessons. They enjoy being able to learn about different faiths and see these lessons as a place where they can explore each other's differences and similarities. The curriculum in RE follows the diocesan scheme of work which meets the Church of England statement of entitlement. The scheme of work is not always followed in sufficient detail to ensure learning is routinely built upon. Planning and assessment of RE is not detailed enough to secure accurate challenge or to help pupils understand how to make progress. Governor monitoring of the school's effectiveness as a church school is not rigorous enough. This is because they do not routinely look for improvement and ensure that this takes place. Children have a good understanding of a range of faiths. Those with a faith enjoy sharing their knowledge and experiences with everyone. This benefits the whole community because everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Pupils are keen to be engaged in wider issues. They have recently been guided to send postcards protesting about climate change to the government. Last year, pupils campaigned successfully to have single use plastic pots removed from their school lunches. Much of this work is initiated by staff. Pupils have many ideas of how they might take the lead in this. In this way, pupils are beginning to be courageous advocates for social action.

Pupils behave well and they say this is because staff are always ready to listen and to sort things out. They understand that everyone makes mistakes and that it is important to make a 'fresh start'. This is not understood by pupils to be rooted in a Christian commitment of forgiveness. Staff say that the support of the headteacher and from each other encourages their good mental health. They too feel that they are flourishing at New Hinksey. 'Working here has renewed my love of teaching' explained a member of staff.

Collective worship is enjoyed by pupils. They see it as a time when 'we can all be together and be quiet'. The school has chosen not to develop a set of core Christian values. Instead it has a wide range of values that are discussed each week in assembly. This lack of focus means that pupils are unable to root the values within a Christian context or to understand their commonality across a range of religions. This was an area for development at the last inspection. Whilst prayer is seen as important in school, it is simply understood to be a way to express thanks for

the good things in life. Collective worship, referred to as assembly, seeks to be inclusive at all times. Where prayer is used, pupils are invited to join in or to reflect on the messages that have been discussed. Pupils are respectful of each other's beliefs and all feel that these times are relevant to them. Pupils enjoy the use of stories within collective worship. These are sometimes, but not generally, biblically based. Pupils' experience of Anglican traditions, like the children's belief in God and Father, Son and Holy Spirit is limited. The school has a positive relationship with the local church. The recently appointed vicar is already becoming part of the school. He takes a weekly assembly and spends time in school because he is eager to establish a chaplaincy role within the school and community. The school values its visits to the church to celebrate festivals and at these times pupils enjoy sharing their thoughts and ideas with the wider community.

New Hinksey is a school that is highly inclusive, celebrates diversity and has high expectations of staff and pupils. The school however, remains at an early stage of considering what it means to be a distinctive church school within its community and as such requires improvement.

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| Headteacher                 | Charlotte Haynes  |
| Inspector's name and number | Karen Surrall 842 |