

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

### St Nicholas Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

Together we love, learn and flourish.

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart' Colossians 3:23.

At St Nics, we aspire to nurture an inclusive community where every individual is loved and valued for who they are, so that they recognise and realise their unique talents and potential.

We flourish through loving ourselves, each other, our school and the wider world. We grow in compassion and confidence and develop our resilience through the courage to embrace learning and new challenges.

St Nicholas Church of England Primary 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

- The Christian vision, based on a deep understanding of the school community, is at the heart of leaders' actions and decisions. It influences and enriches the lives of pupils and adults, enabling them to flourish.
- Relationships within the school are extremely strong. Adults create a warm, welcoming and accepting environment, with a culture of care and nurture permeating throughout the school.
- Inclusion and wellbeing are high priorities for staff and leaders, offering a sense of belonging and purpose. Individuals are known and cherished for their true selves, with their unique qualities respected, celebrated and valued.
- Collective worship is inclusive, accessible and central to the spiritual life of the school. It brings pupils and staff together, encouraging personal reflection, which nurtures spiritual and moral growth.

#### Development Points

- Enhance the way pupils are able to express the impact of opportunities for spiritual development on themselves. This is to support their understanding of the meaning of spirituality and help them articulate their growing spiritual awareness.
- Strengthen the robustness of systems to monitor and evaluate the Christian vision and religious education (RE). This is to enhance leaders' understanding of the vision's impact on enabling pupils and staff to flourish.



## Inspection Findings

St Nicholas Church of England Primary School is a warm and welcoming school where pupils are known, loved and valued. Rooted in the Scripture, 'Whatever you do, do it with all your heart', the vision permeates school life. It is owned by pupils and staff, shaping attitudes, behaviours and aspirations and guiding governors' decision making. Leaders and staff greet pupils and families at the start of each day. This creates a deep sense of belonging and strengthens positive relationships with parents. St Nicholas provides a safe, secure and happy setting where pupils and staff are encouraged to reach their full potential. The school's strong community fosters responsibility and care, helping pupils embody its values. Pupils demonstrate the school's Christian values in their daily interactions, recognising and celebrating these qualities in one another. They feel appreciated, accepted and confident, knowing their academic and personal successes are acknowledged and praised. Staff consistently model the values, creating a positive and aspirational environment. The connection between the school, the local church, and the village is deeply embedded and mutually enriching. The school and trust vision and values reinforce and strengthen one another. This shared commitment ensures St Nicholas Church of England is a thriving school where pupils and staff flourish and grow.

The curriculum provides activities that allow pupils to learn in a way that motivates and interests them. Memorable moments are intentionally woven into the curriculum to spark curiosity and inspire pupils to be inquisitive learners. Staff actively embrace unplanned moments of awe and wonder to enrich pupils' lives. However, pupils' use of a common language to express spirituality is at its early stages. Consequently, pupils struggle to express the impact of opportunities for spiritual development on them. The school's nurturing environment is a source of pride for pupils, staff, parents, governors and the trust. Pupils' individuality is recognised and valued. They are supported to reach their full potential. Enrichment activities such as the 'around the world club' broaden their horizons and cultural awareness. The trust further enhances pupils' learning through the science fair, pupil parliament, inter-school sports and music and drama festivals. These initiatives broaden pupils' experiences, nurture their talents and strengthen their sense of identity and purpose. The strong partnership between St Nicholas, the trust and the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE) enhances teaching and learning. A collaborative culture is embedded, supporting staff professional development, which strengthens education outcomes, knowledge, and leadership.

Collective worship is at the heart of the school, offering a special time for the community to come together. It is welcoming and inclusive. Pupils enter the hall with calming music and a visual display of the school's vision and values. This sets the tone for a meaningful experience. It enables pupils to engage with, and reflect on 'big questions' that deepen their spiritual and moral understanding. Achievements are celebrated and pupils who consistently demonstrate the school's values are recognised. Initiatives such as 'star of the week' and 'staff I spy' highlight pupils who embody the school's ethos. Year 6 pupils identify peers exemplifying belonging, compassion and resilience, awarding them a token to hold during worship. This public recognition helps pupils feel noticed, valued and appreciated, reinforcing the significance of living out the school's values. Key Christian festivals and events are celebrated, fostering a connection to the broader Church tradition. Leaders ensure that worship remains reflective, respectful and relevant, promoting a culture of spiritual growth, curiosity and celebration. Prayer is embedded in daily school life, extending opportunities for pupils to pause, reflect, and communicate with God.

Leaders ensure St Nicholas Church of England Primary School is nurturing and inclusive. They create a strong sense of belonging, underpinned by positive relationships between pupils, staff and families. Pupils are valued and their



individual needs met, enabling them to flourish. Staff enhance pupils' mental health and pastoral welfare through modelling a culture of wellbeing and care. They provide advice to support pupils' emotional, social and behavioural development. Prioritising emotional support creates a safe, welcoming place where pupils confidently take risks in their learning. An ethos of resilience enables pupils to view mistakes as opportunities for growth. Parents express a high trust and gratitude for the school's nurturing attitude. Families feel listened to and respected. Governors acknowledge staff commitment and also play an active role in school life. They ensure their decisions prioritise pupils' best interests. The school's policies and practices are shaped by its Christian values of belonging, compassion and resilience. This creates an environment where pupils feel safe, encouraged and empowered to reach their full potential. Highly effective partnerships between the school and the trust offer staff professional growth and leadership opportunities, which enrich pupils' education. The trust collaborates closely with the school and initiatives such as the 'citizens character award' enhance pupils' personal development.

The school's behaviour management and conflict resolution approach has a significant positive impact. Adults and pupils create a culture of caring relationships, respectful dialogue and personal responsibility. This has helped improve behaviour, attendance and engagement, forming a community where differences are navigated with respect. Pupils confidently challenge and disagree well, using skills that serve them beyond their school life. The school supports charities that are important to staff, pupils and families, including Diabetes UK and Sobell House Hospice. Pupils engage in activities to promote social justice, writing to prominent people and using their voices to advocate for change. These initiatives reflect the school's commitment to living out its Christian vision by taking action to help others. Pupils take great pride in their school and embrace leadership positions, including head pupils, eco-warriors, active buddies and playground councillors. These roles empower pupils to contribute meaningfully to school life, helping to build a sense of personal responsibility.

School and trust leaders ensure RE is prioritised across all classes. The RE curriculum gives pupils a good understanding of Christianity, world faiths and non-religious worldviews. The curriculum encourages pupils to question, compare and contrast their experiences and develop critical thinking skills. Pupils enjoy RE and acknowledge that it is an important subject. The RE curriculum encourages pupils to explore, challenge ideas and confidently engage in meaningful and respectful discussions. Leaders are refining monitoring systems to evaluate RE and the impact of the Christian vision on enabling people to flourish. The school benefits from a strong partnership with the trust and the ODBE. This ensures that RE is well-resourced and that staff professional development enhances teaching, learning and curriculum effectiveness. This collaborative approach strengthens and embeds RE at St Nicholas Church of England Primary School.

## Information

Address	Sarajac Avenue, East Challow, Oxfordshire, OX12 9RY		
Date	3 February 2025	URN	141459
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	121
Diocese/District	Oxford		
MAT/Federation	Cambrian Learning Trust		
CEO	Richard Evans		
Chair of Trustees	Anthony Cook		
Headteacher	Michelle Rooke		
Chair of Governors	Tim Benbow		
Inspector	Pam Howell		