

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Cumnor Church of England Primary School

Vision

Love to learn, learn to love.

We aim to create a dynamic community committed to helping all children to fulfil their potential. We believe in taking pride in every achievement along the educational journey: academically, physically, socially, morally and spiritually.

Children are supported in developing confidence and resilience; empathy and generosity and an enthusiasm for learning. Through encouragement and support, we aim to help children to discover and develop their gifts and to learn to love themselves and others, so that they are prepared to flourish as individuals. Together, we shape resilient and empowered individuals prepared to make meaningful contributions to a local, national and global society.

Cumnor 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.

Notable Strengths

- Cumnor's Christian vision and values are central to the life of the school. They act as a focus for the actions of pupils and adults and contribute powerfully to people's flourishing.
- The school is characterised by a culture in which individuals know that they are cared for and their achievements celebrated. In this environment pupils learn to value themselves and their peers.
- Pupils who are deemed to be disadvantaged and/or vulnerable thrive at Cumnor. This is due to the expert and painstaking work done by the adults who know them well and care deeply for them.
- The curriculum and extra-curricular offer are rich, reflecting the vision. Pupils develop a love of learning due to a carefully crafted curriculum and a wide variety of trips, clubs and enrichment activities.
- Leaders pay careful attention to spirituality in their planning of collective worship and the curriculum. Consequently, adults and pupils are enabled to develop spiritually.

Development Points

- Develop systematic opportunities for pupils to learn about justice. This is to enable them to enhance their understanding of the positive difference they can make.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Cumnor's Christian vision, 'Love to learn, learn to love', is effectively supported by values of curiosity, kindness and respect. The vision is the product of discussions with members of the school community. It is a carefully considered Christian response to the school's context. The vision and values are displayed prominently around the school and in classrooms. They are deeply embedded in the life of the school and are frequently referred to by both staff and pupils. Leaders, including governors, measure their actions in terms of how well they further the vision. For instance, leaders' strategic decision to deploy resources to enhance the pursuit of curiosity was driven by the vision. Their commitment to investing time in getting to know new arrivals at the school demonstrates the importance they place on kindness and respect. Pupils and staff confirm that the vision and values are important to them. They see them as valuable guides for their attitudes and conduct, creating an environment in which people flourish academically, emotionally and spiritually.

Vision and School Culture

The school is permeated by a culture of care and kindness. Pupils, including those who find learning difficult, experience the pleasure of having their progress and achievements acknowledged by the community. This has transformational effects on their sense of self-worth and promotes their flourishing. Adults, inspired by the vision, take great pains to get to know each child as an individual. They consistently invite pupils to reflect on and verbalise their feelings in ways that support their emotional health. This, combined with a restorative approach to resolving difficulties, means that harmonious interactions are the norm. Orchestrated moments of stillness during the day support pupils' wellbeing and contribute to a calm and dignifying culture. Staff value leaders' proactive approach to supporting their careers and promoting their wellbeing. This is born of a genuine commitment to their welfare and has seen many initiatives to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens. Adults also reflect with gratitude on their confidence that if they face difficult times, they will be offered a listening ear and practical support. The vision has undoubtedly created a culture characterised by care, dignity and inclusivity.

Vision and Curriculum

Cumnor's curriculum is shaped by the vision and promotes a love of learning. Staff value the opportunities they have to use projects and residential experiences to foster curiosity and ground learning in practical experiences. The routine use of outdoor education offers pupils access to rich learning experiences. For instance, Year 6 pupils make shelters and discuss the needs of homeless people. Learning outdoors also offers important opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually as they respond to the natural environment. Pupils thrive as they enjoy the many extra-curricular opportunities at Cumnor. In addition to enrichment visits, pupils can choose to attend clubs including coding, sports, music, drama, history and languages. Leaders monitor attendance ensuring that pupils deemed vulnerable and/or disadvantaged can participate fully in all that the school has to offer. At Cumnor, there is a shared understanding of spirituality and curriculum leaders embed opportunities for reflection in their plans. As a result, pupils flourish both academically and spiritually from the curriculum.

Worship and Spirituality

The cycle of collective worship reinforces and embeds the vision by linking it with the school's values of curiosity, kindness and respect. These are systematically explored throughout the year. Worship uniformly reflects a culture of respect for the different views of pupils and adults. Acts of worship offer opportunities for stillness in which people are invited to reflect on their own response. Pupils and adults find the language of windows, mirrors and doors a rich resource. It offers them opportunities for making a spiritual response to times of worship. In addition, on one day of the week, extended time is given to guided reflection, so that people can develop spiritually. Both pupils and adults value this opportunity to respond to the week's theme. Worship is enhanced by the school's partnership with the local parish church. The whole school attends church for



important Christian festivals. Church leaders regularly lead worship in school and the parish facilitates and staffs an annual prayer and reflection space. As a result, pupils flourish through experiencing a breadth of approaches to Christian worship and prayer.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils live out the values of kindness and respect in their dealings with one another. They accept that this involves being willing to take responsibility for their own actions. Older pupils act as buddies to younger ones, guiding and playing with them. This experience of caring across year groups leads to a deep sense of community. Pupils' concern for their peers prompts a commitment to actions that improve the school. The school council champions voluntary lunchtime litter picks to improve the environment. Having learned of the damage that plastic waste can do, they have also initiated a monthly plastic-free day at Cumnor. However, pupils lack a developed understanding of justice. As a result, they do not grasp the school vision's implications for active concern beyond the school gates. This limits their ability to see themselves as people who can make a positive difference. The school is closely involved in the life of the village. Its partnership with parents is particularly strong. This contributes valuably to families' active commitment to the school's vision and to the sense of belonging that they feel.

Religious Education

Leaders, including governors, take active steps to ensure that religious education (RE) is understood by teachers and pupils as a subject of great importance. They work closely with the diocese to ensure that the curriculum is challenging, relevant, diverse and well-sequenced. It reflects leaders' secure understanding of the importance of including a variety of religious and non-religious worldviews. The centrality of Christianity as a world faith across all year groups reflects its place in the curriculum of a Church school. The effectiveness of RE provision and of teachers' continuing professional development is evidenced by the consistently high quality of pupils' work.

Information

Address	Oxford Road, Cumnor, Oxfordshire OX3 9PQ		
Date	8 May 2026	URN	123146
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	199
Diocese	Oxford		
Headteacher	Steven Badger		
Chair of Governors	Tom Christophers		
Inspector	Andrew Wilcock		