

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Fritwell CofE Primary

Address East Street, Fritwell, Nr Bicester, United Kingdom, OX27 7PX

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

Overall grade **Good**

The impact of collective worship **Good**

School's vision

'Growing and learning together with God'. Our Vision is rooted in the Parable of the Sower - that Fritwell School is the good soil in which our children are able to flourish and grow as individuals. Children at Fritwell Church of England School are confident and inspired. They achieve personal success and show love and respect for all.

Key findings

- The school community shares a strong and imaginative Christian vision, which is inspired by leaders, and articulated and understood by all. This impacts positively on the learning and development of pupils and adults, enabling all to 'grown and learn together.' Spiritual development through the vision is not yet fully developed.
- The school is at the centre of the community. Staff care deeply about pupils', and each other's, wellbeing. As a result, pupils in this school flourish and feel well cared for, as do the adults.
- Religious education (RE) is very well planned and structured within the mixed-age class structure. Older pupils speak readily about different faiths, confidently comparing texts, stories and practices and analysing their meaning.
- Collective worship is engaging and welcoming, involving the whole school community. It is planned carefully to link to the vision and associated values. Currently there are not enough opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship.
- Pupils behave very well and demonstrate dignity and respect towards their peers. They are caring and support each other's wellbeing. Pupils' understanding of themselves as agents of change beyond the school itself is underdeveloped.

Areas for development

- Establish a planned, creative and coherent approach to all aspects of pupils' spiritual development. This is in order for pupils to have increased confidence to reflect and ask questions of all around them.
- Develop opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship. This is with a view to pupils having greater ownership of worship and to further enhance their spiritual development.

- Broaden opportunities for pupils to engage in meaningful social action and to challenge injustice. This is to inspire them to make a difference in the world in which they live.

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

Fritwell Church of England Primary School is a welcoming, supportive community. The Christian vision, fully embedded in all aspects of the work of the school, enables pupils and adults to flourish. Inspired by the vision, stakeholders describe Fritwell as 'the good soil to grow in.' The shared development of the vision ensures it is fully embedded and drives school strategic planning and decision making. Leaders have made it their priority to ensure the vision permeates all aspects of school life. Throughout the school there are visual resources to enhance the clarity of the vision. At the beginning of each academic year there is a reflective focus on the vision. This provides pupils with valuable opportunities to consider how they are going to 'grow and learn together with God' during the year. Pupils talk confidently about how the vision supports their learning. One pupil in Year 6 explains this very clearly, 'the school is the good soil and we are the seeds that grow and learn.'

The school is at the heart of the community and is a valued place where people 'grow and learn together'. Positive and open relationships between parents and staff create a culture of nurture and support. Parents appreciate clear communications from school, and the approachability of staff. This leads to a sense that every pupil is deeply valued, with needs appropriately met. The school creates an inclusive atmosphere where pupils are well supported and nurtured. Inspired by the Christian vision to 'grow and learn together', the school has prioritised pupils' mental health and wellbeing. This is highly valued by parents and enables all pupils to flourish. Leaders have worked alongside other agencies to set up support groups to further benefit pupils' mental health. The school reaches out to the community in many ways, for example through inviting elderly members of the village, known as the 'forget-me-nots', into school regularly.

Governance is strong and very supportive of the school. Governors regularly visit school, conduct monitoring activities and offer challenge, which impacts on the school's ongoing development. Leaders and staff are well supported by governors and describe them as 'proactive and hands-on.' The Christian vision drives strategic planning. Leaders will always ask, 'what will help us to grow and learn?', when considering development priorities. For example, as a result of the pandemic, governors and leaders took the decision to extend the hours of the home-school link worker. This action supports families in many practical ways, enabling pupils to flourish. A skills audit is effectively used by governors to establish any gaps and this informs future governor appointments. As a result of this, the ability of governors to monitor the effectiveness of this school as a Church school is enhanced. The partnership between the church and school is very positive and mutually beneficial. Whilst the church was closed due to building works, services took place at the school. Clergy also work closely with and support the school. Through regularly leading collective worship and providing 'experience' events, pupils engage well and talk confidently about the Bible.

Pupils steadily realise their potential in various ways. The Christian vision encourages them to display a positive mindset and persevere, continuing to grow and learn throughout their time at Fritwell. Pupils clearly articulate how Christians believe that the teachings of Jesus can promote human flourishing. Pupils can accurately identify biblical stories which they feel illustrate this. Pupils understand how the school's Christian values are very important in their personal development. They can be awarded a hexagon for demonstrating the values and these are displayed in the school hall. The impact of these awards is enhanced because pupils can nominate their peers, resulting in a genuine pride for each other's achievements. Pupils demonstrate good behaviour and show each other dignity and respect. They show a desire to help others and they support charities identified by the school, but their role as courageous advocates needs further development. Members of the Primary Leadership Team are articulate and enthusiastic in working together 'to improve the school.' They are elected onto this team by their peers. The development of the new reflection area on the playground is a good example of their influence, with pupils involved in the design.

Natural materials were selected in keeping with the environment and their positive stewardship of the earth when planning the area. Reflection areas are available around the school and receive some use. Although the school knows its pupils well, there is no strategically planned approach to spiritual development.

Daily collective worship is invitational and inclusive. Pupils respond well to the opportunities for reflection. Pupils also point to moments where they have been inspired to action by collective worship, particularly around matters of personal behaviour. Pupils participate in collective worship through a 'worship team' who assist in many of the practical arrangements. They show potential and enthusiasm for greater involvement in the planning and delivery of collective worship and have some imaginative ideas. Participation in collective worship is enthusiastic and joyful and this is seen in the ready engagement of the pupils.

Pupils enjoy RE and are enthusiastic about lessons. Impactful training from the Diocese of Oxford has led to the RE leader providing enriching support for teachers within the school. RE is very well planned and delivered using various resources including the Understanding Christianity programme. As a result, pupils' knowledge and understanding is impressive and confident, especially amongst older pupils. Pupils flourish well in the subject in line with the school's Christian vision. Their work is thoughtful and big questions are considered and debated. A safe and open culture for discussion enhances learning attitudes, as pupils are not afraid to ask questions. They enjoy learning about different faiths and beliefs and confidently explain that this is important to understand one another in today's world. Planning is carefully thought through to support the mixed-age classes. Opportunities for pupils to learn about a range of faiths and beliefs are woven throughout the curriculum. There are ample opportunities for enrichment activities, for example a whole school trip to a local Gurudwara recently during the focus on Sikhism. Pupils value their school and the vision and associated values which are central to life at Fritwell. The inclusive culture is expressed well by a pupil who notes, 'even through you might not believe, Christianity has a really good message.'

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	06 July 2022	URN	123099
Date of previous inspection	07 May 2015		
School status	VC	NOR	150
Name of Multi Academy Trust or Federation			
Diocese or Methodist Circuit	Oxford		
Headteacher	Jonathan Hart		
Proportion of pupils deemed to be disadvantaged	Below National Average		
Proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	In Line with National Average		
Additional significant information (if needed)			
Inspector's name	Matthew Fletcher	No.	2111