

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Address The Street, Lawshall, Bury St Edmunds, IP29 4QA

Christian vision

Inspire Challenge Succeed

Our Christian vision is that all children leave All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary as confident, resilient, and reflective individuals, who live their lives through a foundation of strong Christian values and develop a lifelong love of learning with a curiosity and respect for the world and people around them. Rooted 'In everything, treat others the same way that you want them to treat you.' Matthew 7:12

School strengths

- All Saint's deeply Christian vision is deeply rooted in relevant biblical teachings. As a result, being part of the school community changes lives and equips people to be the best they can.
- Pupils are known as individuals and are treated with dignity and respect. This informs a rich and varied curriculum where spiritual development is an intrinsic part. It enables pupils to be curious and supports them to flourish.
- Collective worship is a valued part of the school day because it includes everyone, and it allows them to hear Jesus's teaching. This leads to worship often being a transformational experience for pupils and adults. It provides direction and support in their daily lives.
- Positive relationships underpin this school, enriched by its outreach work in the local community. Consequently, All Saints' serves its community and is served by a culture of generosity of care and love.
- Religious education (RE) is well planned and enables curiosity which drives the whole RE curriculum. It has a high profile and enables all to appreciate a range of beliefs. RE underpins the ethos of everyone flourishing by providing opportunities to understand about a range of beliefs.

Areas for development

- Further encourage pupils to engage as agents of change in more global projects.
- Build on the very strong opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum so the impact is maximised.

Inspection findings

All Saints is a small, rural school where every person is included, thoroughly known and genuinely cared for. As a result, pupils and adults feel valued. Leaders have reflected the needs and hopes of the community in the development of their Christian vision. They have drawn on Matthew 7:12; treat others as you want to be treated. This biblical reference is exemplified in all aspects of school life and underpins the trusting relationships the school has developed. This leads to many opportunities for pupils and adults to realise their unique gifts and succeed. A good example is the annual Shakespeare project with a local theatre. Here, pupils often with low levels of confidence find their voice and excel in performing. Another is the recognition and investment in staff to pursue specialist interests to benefit the school, such as mental health training and wellbeing support.

The vision is understood and explored through core Christian values, such as, thankfulness. These are exemplified through the teachings of Jesus and the Bible, resulting in a deep desire to treat all well. Role modelling of positive relationships is supported by a sensitively planned healthy relationships curriculum. School leaders say they live out the vision by looking outwards. They look beyond the school for best practice they can use and learn from. Consequently, the school works with a range of partners, including the diocese, to offer the best for its community. Committed governors provide support and take pride in being the guardians of the school's Christian character. They forensically evaluate the impact of the vision in detail and regularly check how the vision drives the school's priorities. This strengthens the outworking of the vision further.

The rich and varied curriculum has an intrinsic golden thread of spiritual development running through it. The school has thought carefully about what spirituality is. As a result, intentionally planned moments of awe and wonderment feed the pupils' curious nature to ask questions. A strong culture of exploring life's big questions helps pupils find a voice. They are heard and valued. This leads to deep reflection. The wider curriculum offers long term projects that root the school to its Christian vision and its local community. A good example is the thirty-year 'seed to tree' project. Here, the youngest pupils collect acorns, plant them and grow saplings. These are then nurtured and planted in the community wood. Older pupils tend the woodland and create a lasting legacy in God's creation. Pupils' interests and achievements are celebrated weekly in worship. Here, pupils are selected to share their achievements, both in and outside of school. They share how they overcome barriers to succeed, living the vision of challenge leading to success.

Collective worship is valued at All Saints. It is inclusive and seen as a conversation with God and about God. Hence, pupils have opportunities to develop a meaningful connection to God through the invitation to prayer, through singing and reflection. Through choice, pupils can ask God for guidance in their daily lives or reflect on their own sense of being. This enables opportunities for everyone to flourish spiritually. Pupils lead aspects of worship regularly, as they cherish this time together. Joyful singing is a key part of worship which everyone finds uplifting. Diverse Christian teachings are explored through core Christian values that underpin the school's vision. Purposeful and relevant links between how Jesus lived his life and how pupils may live their lives are woven into daily worship. The richness of the church year is celebrated through the strong links with the church. Consequently, this strengthens the school's Christian identity of tradition, generosity, love and care. Thus, worship is a cohesive statement of the Christian foundations and vision of the school.

Leaders seek to serve their community and treat everyone well. The Christian vision creates a warm and inclusive ethos where pupils and adults feel trusted. This is because school leaders support everyone to learn by making mistakes. Every pupil is known individually, enabling barriers to flourishing to be actively removed. This leads to no ceiling being placed on their learning. This leads to pupils with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) exceeding all expectation. Pupils, who find school difficult, thrive because of specialist support for mental health, wellbeing and behaviour. This is evident from the seamless integration of pupils into All Saints often leading to transformational changes to pupils' lives.

Outdoor learning supports pupils in finding their voice as agents of change. As a result, pupils have written to the prime minister and foreign embassies to challenge deforestation of rainforests. They have planned and lead projects to fund raise for environmental issues such as climate change. However, these opportunities are not extended to other global issues. The school supports a wide range of projects within the local community, including forming its own food bank. This demonstrates the school's Christian sense of responsibility. Community work is exemplified in the uniform swap shops the school organises and the toy exchange at Christmas. These ensure every pupil and family is included and enabled to flourish. Adults in school flourish in many roles. This is because of the school's investment in staff training.

RE is given a high status in the school. Pupils enjoy the subject because of the challenge it provides through focusing on asking big enquiry questions. Pupils are captivated by learning about how religions are diversely lived. For example, learning starts with pupils' own views, experiences and ideas before exploring other beliefs and worldviews. Pupils, embrace deeper thinking leading to critical reflection and enjoy the challenge it offers. This reflects one of the school's core learning approaches. Knowledge is effectively mapped out in RE plans. This, alongside support from the diocese, has grown teacher confidence. These approaches reflect the school's vision of inspiring learning and challenging pupils to think. Consequently, pupils value exploring rich life experiences in lessons and develop an understanding of the diversity of beliefs.

The inspection findings indicate that All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information

School	All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School				
URN	124706	Pupils on roll	176	VA/VC/Academy	VC
Diocese	St Edmundsbury and Ipswich				
Headteacher	Clare Lamb				
Chair of governors	Katie Haselhurst				
Inspector	Christopher J Allen			No.	847
Date of Inspection	18 September 2023				