

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Old Newton Church of England Primary School

Vision

We are made in the image of God,
Valued and Loved by Him;
We are a community, following in the example of Jesus, growing in strength and wisdom;
We are filled with the Holy Spirit, living life to the full.

Old Newton 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

- The clearly articulated Christian vision and values are lived out across the school. Leaders ensure they drive daily life and create a culture of community.
- Rooted in Christian love, positive relationships and wellbeing are a priority for leaders. They actively promote a safe and nurturing environment where adults and pupils feel valued and cared for.
- Collective worship is joyful and enriching. It is shaped by the vision and values of the school. The regular involvement of clergy and the church community enhance worship and its spiritual impact.
- The school is harmonious and inclusive. Following Jesus' example, pupils and adults treat each other with respect and celebrate the uniqueness of the individual.
- Religious education (RE) gives pupils an understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, including Christianity. Pupils feel confident to question, make connections and think deeply.

Development Points

- Develop a shared language and understanding of spirituality for use across the curriculum. This is to support staff as they plan intentional moments to aid pupils' spiritual development.
- Establish opportunities for pupils to respond to injustice. This is to enable pupils to recognise the breadth of the positive difference they can make.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

This small Church school's welcoming ethos is rooted in its Christian vision and the associated values, including patience and kindness. A caring approach ensures that individuals are known and valued for who they are. The nurturing culture enables pupils, including those deemed to be vulnerable, to access the breadth of school life. Regular enrichment days include memorable activities that explore and explain the biblical roots of the vision and values to pupils and families. Therefore, this enhances an understanding that humans are made in the image of God and pupils relate Jesus' wisdom to their own learning. Old Newton values being part of the Tilian Trust. The school benefits from reciprocal partnerships with the trust, diocese and the local authority. These collaborations provide staff with a wide range of professional development that supports school improvement and offers opportunities. Leaders model the Christian vision and values consistently and thoughtfully identify key priorities for curriculum development. Governors carefully evaluate the school's effectiveness as a Church school, in conjunction with the diocese and trust. They participate in vision days, monitor activities and report back their findings. Hence, this ensures effective strategic decision making, underpinned by the vision.

Vision and Curriculum

Leaders recognise the isolation of this rural village school. As a result, a thoughtfully crafted curriculum reflects the local context, encouraging interest and diversity. The curriculum is rooted in the Christian vision of growing in strength and wisdom, enabling pupils to flourish. New curriculum developments enhance provision, which positively impacts on pupils' self-confidence, equipping them to think deeply, be curious and enjoy their learning. Staff are aspirational, especially for those considered to be vulnerable. Enrichment activities and residential educational visits broaden the pupils' horizons. Enhanced music provision brings creativity and joy into the school week. Well-chosen themes in the refreshed English curriculum promote discussions on fairness. Consequently, pupils respond reflectively and are inspired to think deeply, making pertinent links that reflect global connections. Time is allowed for pupils to pause during the school day. A definition of spirituality is agreed but there are few opportunities to explore this within the curriculum. This limits pupils' spiritual development.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a valued time of the school day, providing moments of peace, thoughtfulness and celebration. Woven through the planning are key Christian celebrations and the school's values, including faithfulness and peace. Through collective worship the Christian vision is nurtured as pupils and adults are invited to reflect, pray and learn. Worship is made relevant to everyday life through scripted dramas, questions and reflections, helping to guide personal choices. It is carefully structured to include opportunities for pupils to be positively involved. The pupil committee are enthusiastic about their role in the worship life of the school. Their contributions are inspiring and promote the use of reflection places around the school. Practical aspects enhance inclusive worship, such as signing provision to ensure that worship is easily accessible. The trust encourages leaders to work closely with the diocese, who provide ideas, resources and suggestions for worship and spiritual development. Pupils benefit from a close relationship with the local church and clergy, so feel part of the wider Christian community. Parents and carers appreciate invitations to celebrate significant festivals and these lead to their support for church activities and services. Routine monitoring and feedback from leaders and pupils are established and enhance future worship. Anglican wording and symbolic items such as an altar cloth, candle and cross on the worship table, make Christian concepts memorable. The Lord's Prayer is well known and is an inspiration for pupils to devise and share their own prayers. This demonstrates the importance of prayer and reflection to this school.

Vision and School Culture

The vision shapes a school culture where the community is built on forgiveness and respect, enabling adults and pupils to feel valued and flourish. Leaders demonstrate the values of kindness and compassion, which promotes



good mental health. An open-door policy ensures families feel welcomed and confident to approach the school. They are assured that they are listened to and ask the school for practical help and guidance when needed. Classrooms have zones for calm thought and a living willow bower is part of an outdoor reflective area. Consequently, pupils have space and enjoy time to reflect. Pupils play harmoniously together and there are positive relationships throughout the school. Older pupils are encouraged in their guidance of younger ones. Opportunities for pupils to take on leadership responsibilities across the school are plentiful. They lead with pride and approach their roles with commitment. New pupils settle in well. Likewise, pupils are helped to develop the self-assurance required to have a successful move to secondary school. The trust and diocese provide staff training and facilitate shared expertise. As a result, staff enjoy increased opportunities, which enhances their confidence and wellbeing.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The Old Newton community extends beyond the school gates, thus creating strong partnerships. The trust, local schools and the parish church community enrich school life. Pupils live out the Christian vision through responsibility and leadership. Work within school councils ensures that pupil voice is recognised and valued through regular meetings and discussion. Such roles are taken thoughtfully and seriously. Representatives are taught that they should 'start small and work your way out' when initiating change. Regular class worship challenges preconceptions and encourages debate around current events. Pupils develop a sense of generosity and compassion including good causes, for example the local foodbank and a Christmas toy appeal. Through planned curriculum opportunities, such as an English text on water, pupils gain an insight into justice and thoughtfully discuss important issues. However, an understanding of the impact they can make on injustice is less developed. Valuing the individual shapes a culture where adults and pupils are treated with dignity and respect and flourish.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum ensures that pupils encounter a wide range of religious and non-religious worldviews. This deepens their knowledge and understanding of people and how they express their beliefs. RE has a high status, is led effectively and staff are enthusiastic about teaching it. RE is valued by pupils because they find it interesting and rightly state the importance of learning 'what people think and do'. It is well planned and balances the teaching of global Christianity with different world faiths. This enriches pupils' understanding of and respect for diverse beliefs, cultures and worldwide celebrations, such as Holi. Pupils' books demonstrate the value placed on facilitating a range of personal responses. The diocese supports the work of the school and provides effective training. As a result, leaders secure new developments in the subject across the school. The RE curriculum is structured around questions that encourage curiosity and promote deep thinking and debate. Pupils are confident and initiate questioning such as, 'What was there before God?' RE builds knowledge of world religions and beliefs as pupils move through the school and make connections. Consequently, pupils approach learning in RE with confidence and enthusiasm.

Information

Address	School Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket, IP14 4PJ		
Date	27 January 2026	URN	143070
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	70
Diocese	St Edmundsbury and Ipswich		
MAT	Tilian		
MAT Chair	Andrew Berry		
Headteacher	Jo Lockyear		
Chair of Governors	Philippa Alston		
Inspector	Lynne Golding		