

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Palgrave Church of England Primary School

Vision

'Moving forward together as a family, with loving respect'

In our community family at Palgrave Church of England Primary School, our vision for now and the future is to nurture supportive relationships, inclusion, spirituality, and a warm, positive environment. This vision, underpinned by our Christian values, is firmly anchored in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7. These verses form our guidelines for Christian living as we strive to put Christian love into practice at school each day. Each pupil and staff member is encouraged to use their individual gifts to the full, working together closely, enabling the school community to flourish and grow collectively.

Palgrave 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 school's inclusive vision, has been carefully considered by the entire school community. It represents who they are and the lived-out reality of each school day. A genuine sense of Christian love enables pupils and adults to flourish, even in challenging times.
- Shaped by the Christian vision, the curriculum is intentionally designed to foster personal growth through enquiry and collaboration.
- A strong partnership with the church community enriches the development of this school. It especially enhances collective worship. It inspires adults and pupils to reflect on the teachings of Jesus and guides them in their positive choices.
- Religious education (RE) is effectively led and pupils benefit from the balanced and carefully structured RE curriculum. Pupils enjoy their learning and recognise the importance of this subject.
- Pupils have a shared sense of responsibility, strengthened by their school's Christian vision. The outworking of this is seen in fundraising and social action to raise awareness.

Development Points

- Ensure the governing body conducts its monitoring against the Christian vision and as part of an evaluation process. This is to enable governors to have a deeper understanding of how it is supporting pupils and adults to thrive.
- Enhance the understanding of spirituality through identifying rich opportunities for further spiritual growth across the curriculum. This is to provide a more consistent approach to spiritual development.



Inspection Findings

Rooted in Christian love, leaders nurture a community where adults and pupils can flourish. Their vision is the product of careful thought and discussion involving the school community and the diocese. Although only recently taking its current written form, the vision is clearly embedded. It is a true representation of how the school lives out each day. This vision aligns with that of the Tilian Partnership. Their sense of purpose being deeply Christian. All school improvement is underpinned by their vision. Parents and carers are appreciative of the support they receive and recognise the commitment and dedication of the staff. Adults thrive through leaders who nurture and care for them. Time is taken to make sure staff feel valued. They are well supported in their Church school roles through effective training and support from the diocese. Governors visit the school regularly and know it well. Due to the newness of this vision, they have not started to formally evaluate its impact. However, they rightly recognise the sense of love and nurture that runs through the school.

The Christian vision shapes provision enabling the opportunity for each pupil to thrive. Staff have designed a curriculum being mindful of the need to broaden horizons and develop open-ended questions. The approach to learning makes it exciting and engaging for pupils and staff. The school plans experiences, trips and visitors to ensure that pupils see the diverse world in which they live. This is a small school constrained by physical space but the staff 'can do' attitude rises above challenges. If pupils need a quiet moment, there are spaces and places where this can be achieved. Pupils are known as individuals to ensure they reach their personal best. Vulnerable and/or disadvantaged pupils are able to access activities and learning alongside their peers. Staff pride themselves in knowing each pupil individually and ensuring that their needs are met. Pupils develop resilience and confidence because of the strong relationship between school and home. The school supports the spiritual development of pupils, enjoying moments of awe and wonder, as they arise. However, opportunities for spiritual development are not planned for across the curriculum.

Worship is a joyful time. It impacts school ethos and culture by being central to school life. It is held in St Peter's Church each day, which further develops the sense of community and raises spiritual awareness. Its Anglican foundation enriches the rhythm of worship. This includes greetings, special prayers and liturgical traditions. Acts of worship build on and illustrate the vision and values through stories from the Bible. This highlights how to live a full and good life. Worship is well organised to provide opportunities to sing, reflect and question, which enriches personal growth. The school's inclusive approach ensures that pupils have a significant involvement within worship. They are eager to lead and are inspired by one another. Pupils recognise the power of prayer and speak of the calmness and peace they feel afterwards. Prayer and reflection are an integral part of the school day, providing times for contemplation. The strong partnership with members of the local church deepens the development of worship.

The school's vision cultivates a caring and inclusive community, where there is a clear culture of tolerance and respect. The biblical root of love resonates with the manner in which the school community treats one another. Relationships are good because the Christian values are a lived reality here. Staff unconsciously model how this vision looks through the strong bond that exists between them. Adults and pupils are nurtured and in turn accept and give back. Breaktime buddies ensure no-one is left out, so that pupils do not feel lonely. The curriculum provides the pupils with a good level of emotional literacy so that they are able to express their feelings. Pupils have a voice and they are listened to at Palgrave. Leaders are mindful of staff workload and find ways to support colleagues. Relationships within the Tilian Partnership as well as with other local schools, ensures a strong support



network that has mutual benefits. Parents and carers rightly recognise the school's ethos. It embodies kindness and support, leading to confident and thriving children.

Justice and responsibility are part of the school culture and evident in its outward-looking approach. Pupils are enthusiastic to take on roles of responsibility within school such as 'eco council' and school council. The school support charities with whom they have personal connections. The confidence of pupils grows through knowing that they have the ability to make a difference. The school's curriculum and worship resources teach pupils about justice and equality. Pupils are empowered to respond to issues that matter to them. For example, by clearing plastic waste along a local river and writing to their member of parliament (MP). The responses they receive demonstrates the maturity and skill with which they argue their case. Their actions are celebrated in local newspapers and have led to a personal reply from their MP. Pupils raise awareness. They also develop a greater understanding of how they can make the world a better place, through how they care for the planet and treat others.

Religious Education (RE) has high priority at the school. Effectively supported by the local diocese, the school has developed a balanced, relevant and coherent RE curriculum. It includes opportunities to discover the ways Christians from around the globe practice their faith. A broad study of faiths and worldviews is also planned into the curriculum. The approach is based upon questions, which leads to enthusiastic engagement in RE. These enquiries encourage curiosity and demand a range of responses. They also give pupils the opportunity to explore viewpoints different to their own. RE enables pupils to reflect and discuss their own values and beliefs within an environment of mutual respect. Leaders regularly monitor the provision which ensures that RE challenges while building on prior knowledge. They provide staff training and support when and where necessary. As a result, the RE curriculum is effective.

Information

Address	The Green, Palgrave, Diss, Suffolk IP22 1AG		
Date	25 November 2024	URN	143071
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	84
Diocese/District	St Edmundsbury & Ipswich		
MAT	The Tilian Partnership		
Headteacher	Julia Waters		
Chair of Governors	Hannah Cooke		
Chair of Trust	Stephen Yapp		
Inspector	Christina Galletly		