Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Ixworth Church of England Primary School

Vision

On a journey together where learning has no limits.
They will soar on wings like eagles Isaiah 40:31
As a Church of England school, Christian values are at the heart of everything we do. Our Christian values are: patience, awareness, respect, compassion, integrity and community.

Ixworth 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

- Leaders share a deep understanding of the Christian vision that is lived out across school life and underpins the strategic direction of Ixworth. As a result, wise decisions are made about the future of the school, enabling pupils and staff to flourish.
- There is an overwhelming sense of belonging, which shapes relationships, partnerships and understanding. Pupils and staff feel known and valued as individuals. Because of this, they are able to work together as a community and their wellbeing is enhanced.
- Collective worship is a carefully planned and enriching occasion that pupils are proud to be part of. This enables them to develop a respect for faith and participate fully, which enriches the spiritual life of pupils and staff.
- The curriculum is carefully planned to reflect the aspirational Christian vision and it is designed to enable pupils to 'soar'. It tailors pupils' experiences, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), so they feel included. Pupils are encouraged to be aspirational and believe they have no limits to their learning. This positively impacts behaviour, attendance and achievement.
- Religious education (RE) is well planned, coordinated and resourced. It offers challenge, relevance and diverse opportunities for pupils to respond. This means pupils are confident to enquire, explore and make links to their own lives.

Development Points

- To broaden pupils' understanding of diversity by providing rich learning experiences. This is to enable them to enhance their global awareness of the world around them so that they flourish within it.
- To extend pupils' understanding of justice and responsibility. This is to enable pupils to recognise how they can make a positive difference to the lives of others and act on topics that matter to them.

Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership Ixworth's well-established Christian vision inspires the school community to 'soar on wings like eagles.' Dedicated leaders and staff ensure the vision and carefully chosen values, including patience and respect, thread throughout the school's work. A marketplace activity, where the community selected their values, means they are appropriate and well understood. Leaders model Christian values and identify key priorities for school improvement and curriculum development with reference to the vision and values. Skilled staff provide a rich learning environment and carefully consider individual needs, demonstrating their commitment to inclusion. A nurturing approach means that pupils are cherished for who they are. The values of integrity and compassion ensure that pupils, including those who need additional support, have full access to school life. Ixworth is a member of The Tilian Partnership, with its aligned vision of the parable of the good Samaritan. Partnerships are strong, including significant links with the diocese, trust schools and local church. Governors monitor and evaluate the impact of the school's work carefully. They have a thorough understanding of Ixworth's needs when making strategic decisions, such as introducing a nursery and toddler group.
Vision and Curriculum Supported by the vision, staff encourage pupils to be thoughtful, inquisitive and enjoy their learning. The whole school is motivated to work together as a community. Pupils understand and live out the vision, which was correctly explained as 'you should keep trying and soaring'. A developing outdoor space, 'The Nest', encourages opportunities for reflection and spiritual development. The shared definition of spirituality is agreed, but there are few opportunities to explore this within the curriculum. All classrooms have areas for calm reflection. Pupils with SEND are supported and taught to develop resilience. Enrichment experiences are carefully planned to broaden pupils' experiences while remaining affordable and inclusive. Leaders are aware of the nature of this rural village school, and this informs the curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities offered. However, opportunities to develop a global perspective that enhances curiosity about the wider world and broadens pupils' horizons are not consistently provided. Focused professional development ensures that staff are highly skilful and able to provide appropriate support for pupils and families. Adults recognise and embrace individual needs and differences, compassionately supporting pupils to achieve their best.
Worship and Spirituality Collective worship forms a special time for the school community. It is relevant and memorable, and pupils are respectful and reflective. Carefully planned worship is underpinned by the Christian vision and values, including integrity. It includes events from the Christian calendar and is relevant to the lives of pupils. Worship includes opportunities for Year 6 pupils to lead, and they are proud of their roles and responsibilities. Anglican wording is used and symbolic items such as a Bible, candle and cross are included on the worship table. There are opportunities for joyful song, invitational prayerful response and reflection. The peaceful atmosphere is valued, as one pupil commented, 'it's calm, like a rest at the end of a long day'. Strong partnerships with the parish church and consistent contributions from clergy enrich the delivery of worship and its spiritual impact. Consequently, worship has a positive impact on pupils and staff. Seasonal celebrations in church such as Epiphany enable pupils and families to feel part of the wider Christian community. Because worship is inclusive, it helps to guide the actions of pupils and adults, enabling them to flourish.
Vision and School Culture Pupils and adults are nurtured and cared for, and relationships are strong in this warm and welcoming school. Leaders model the values of respect and compassion. They provide time and space for adults and pupils, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. A high proportion of parents and carers attended the school

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themselves, demonstrating a strong impact on people's lives. An open-door policy ensures families feel welcomed and confident to approach the school. They are assured that they are listened to and value the compassionate provision made by the school in times of need. Older pupils develop confidence by nurturing and encouraging younger pupils, strengthening relationships across the school. They take their responsibilities seriously, successfully introducing the Christian vision and values to the youngest in the school. Effective pre-school provision and positive transition arrangements enable new pupils to settle in well. Likewise, pupils are helped to develop the self-confidence required to have a successful move to their next school. A behaviour policy based on respect and compassion underpins the work of the school. Positive strategies like the Ixworth Incredibles Awards reinforce the values of the school. The trust and diocese facilitate professional development opportunities which enhance confidence and wellbeing. The thoughtful support provided for pupils considered to be vulnerable and those who have SEND makes them feel valued.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils use the Christian vision and values to reflect on their actions. A positive relationship with the parish church is mutually beneficial, meaning the community is enriched and strengthened. Pupils demonstrate generosity by actively contributing to local causes, such as the informal church foodbank. Pupils are motivated to help and empathise with others, demonstrating acts of kindness. The 'Changemaker' initiative involves representatives from across the age range changing personal actions. Pupils are taught to start with themselves and work outwards from their own experience. However, they do not understand how to create positive change in the world or initiate their own ideas and projects more widely. Enrichment activities and educational visits support the broadening of pupils' horizons across the curriculum. They live out the Christian vision through responsibilities and leadership such as the opportunity to 'buddy' the youngest pupils. These opportunities shape a culture where individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

Religious Education

Dedicated leaders ensure RE has a high priority on the curriculum, from the earliest stages of pupils' education. The scheme uses 'big questions' as a starting point, which promotes curiosity and deep thinking. It is thought-provoking and provides opportunities to broaden cultural awareness. It is well-planned and balances the teaching of Christianity with a wide range of religions and worldviews. RE inspires pupils to flourish and demands a range of responses, including debate, reflection and creativity. Leaders benefit from the support of the diocese for professional development, ensuring consistency in the curriculum. RE is well-resourced, monitored and evaluated by the subject leader and nominated governor through discussion with pupils, data and work scrutiny. Pupils value RE because it helps them understand how people from a wide range of faiths and worldviews live, encouraging respect for others. Personal views are confidently shared, and these are respected and valued. Class books demonstrate the value placed on creative responses across a range of topics, from pilgrimage to superheroes. A topic on baptism, brought to life through local clergy enacting the ceremony in church, makes learning memorable and impactful.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Crown Lane, Ixworth, Suffolk, IP31 2EL		
Date	01 July 2026	URN	145234
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	165
Diocese	St Edmundsbury and Ipswich		
MAT	The Tilian Partnership		
MAT Chair	Stephen Yapp		
Headteacher	Marie Bird		
Chair of Governors	Karen Burton		
Inspector	Lynne Golding		