



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Copthorne Church of England Junior School	
Address	Church Road, Copthorne, RH10 3RD
School vision	
<p>'Creating confident, curious learners with God's love.'</p> <p>We, at Copthorne CE Junior School, believe that every child and adult is unique. With God's love, we grow and learn together, encouraging everyone in our school family to 'let their light shine' (Matthew 5:16). We strive to be the best we can be knowing that 'what will be has not yet been revealed' (1 John 3:2). Through our Christian values we flourish as one community. Our children move on to the next phase of their education with a lifelong love of learning and a compassionate and considerate approach to life.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transformational leadership of this school is committed to the flourishing of every member of the school community. A clear focus upon the Christian vision provides opportunities for all to be the best that they can be. • Underpinned by the Christian vision and the belief that each individual is unique, Copthorne Church of England Junior School provides an inclusive environment for learning and growing together. Pupils, staff and parents are valued within the highly supportive and caring community. Leaders' focus on wellbeing and positive relationships is enabling all to flourish. • Inspiring collective worship is a special part of the school day where the school family joins together. It is a tangible expression of the school's Christian vision. Pupils engage with confidence, showing a compassionate and considerate approach to life. • The partnership with the Church plays a significant role in enriching the life of the school, enabling all to learn and grow together as a community. The vicar makes a valuable contribution to inspiring everyone to let their light shine. • Religious education (RE) is well led and makes a strong contribution to the flourishing of pupils. The RE curriculum has clear intent and is well structured, enabling pupils to build on learning. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a school wide understanding of spirituality is evident throughout the curriculum and the wider life of the school so that all have the opportunity to flourish spiritually. • Develop opportunities for pupils to identify issues and good causes to support and learn from, enabling them to become independent agents for change. • Strengthen and deepen governors' monitoring so that it has a clear focus on evaluating the impact of the school's Christian vision. 	
Inspection findings	

Inspirational Christian leadership has driven the improvement of this Church school. It is transforming the lives of pupils and adults. Leaders have developed a clear and inclusive Christian vision, embracing and responding to the changing needs of the community. They express how the vision is firmly rooted in theology. Leaders value the uniqueness of every individual and provide opportunities so that all may flourish. The vision is based upon love and hope for the future. It guides pupils and adults to be the best they can be and is woven throughout the work of the school. The partnership with the local church has been integral in supporting school leaders to shape and articulate the vision.

The school uses well established values as an expression of the vision. They support everyone to thrive as they seek to show them in their own lives. For example, pupils confidently express that, with courage to face new situations, they achieve more. Pupils also link Bible stories to illustrate their understanding of the school's key values. The approach of asking questions across the curriculum successfully promotes pupils' curiosity. For example, within RE, pupils raise questions about faith and belief. The vicar responds to these simple and complex questions in person, helping pupils make sense of the world.

Leaders and governors work closely to ensure an on-going drive for improvement, grounded in the Christian vision. They base decisions on how best to serve the needs of the community, enabling pupils and staff to flourish. Governors are committed and work diligently through a regular programme of monitoring to understand the work of the school. However, this does not focus clearly enough on evaluating the impact of the school's Christian vision.

Curriculum development has been a priority and is shaped by the Christian vision. It focuses on broadening horizons and raising aspiration for all pupils. Staff have been well supported by the diocese and local authority advisers to bring about improvements. Adjustments and challenges meet the wide-ranging needs of learners supporting all to be the best they can be. Governors and leaders review information to ensure that pupils progress from their starting points. Pupils enjoy their learning and the creative ways in which they respond. The varied enrichment programme provides quality experiences, inspiring pupils' curiosity, courage and confidence. The impact of a structured programme for Forest Schools, for example, enables pupils freedom to explore and challenge themselves in the natural environment.

As a result of clear leadership which is focused on achieving the Christian vision, a strong sense of community and welcome pervades the school. Highly positive relationships make a strong contribution to the flourishing of adults and pupils. Leaders go above and beyond to ensure that everyone is embraced and valued as unique. Leaders ensure that pupils' wellbeing and individual needs are central to decision making. They prioritise resources and staff training for this. Staff seek to understand how they can best support each pupil's needs and tailor responses accordingly. A range of support to build pupil confidence is in place. It includes safe spaces for pupils inside and out, and a well-loved therapy dog. Staff wellbeing is also a priority. Governors and leaders consider the impact of decisions on staff wellbeing. They actively encourage and facilitate professional development opportunities. As a result, several teaching staff are thriving through studying further professional qualifications.

Guided by the Christian vision, the school seeks to inspire pupils to develop a compassionate and considerate approach to life. Pupil leadership roles makes a positive contribution to promoting a sense of responsibility and justice. Pupil leaders talk with energy about how they are making changes within the school environment so that all feel welcome and cared for. They show awareness of issues of justice in the world and are motivated to help others through social action projects initiated by adults. For example, charity support and links with a school in Tanzania help pupils to learn about challenges that people face. While pupils are developing as advocates for change

through involvement in these projects, they have more limited opportunities to suggest and initiate change themselves.

Collective worship is a special time where the school community comes together. It expresses the school's vision and is inclusive and engaging. Pupils benefit from the spiritual experience of gathering together in worship in school and at church. The partnership with St. John the Evangelist Church enriches pupils' experiences. The vicar regularly leads worship and an enthusiastic Open the Book team brings Bible stories alive. This enables pupils to enjoy and understand more about the Bible. As a result, pupils make purposeful links between the themes of worship and their own lives and behaviour. Their responses show insight and understanding of living in a considerate and compassionate manner in today's world. Following the Church calendar, there is a consistent structure which is inclusive. It offers time for discussion, song and reflection. Pupils and adults make the choice to pray or to be still and think during worship. They are joyful in their singing. All adults value the significance of Christian festivals because they encourage everyone to gather together. Leaders are dedicated to providing age-appropriate worship both in school and when visiting the church for festivals. This reinforces the sense of belonging for the school. Opportunities to nourish pupils' spiritual development beyond collective worship, however, are under developed. Pupil worship leaders have begun creating an outdoor reflection garden, and a prayer room offers a place for pupils to respond to themes such as how to care for our world. Adults do not have a shared understanding of ways to help pupils value and express their spirituality. As a result, opportunities to promote time and space for personal reflection and cultivating spiritual awareness are missed.

RE has high priority in the school. Strong RE leadership has ensured that the diverse curriculum is planned to ensure sequence and progression of learning. It provides opportunities to explore and deepen understanding of the Christian vision, enabling pupils to be curious and become considerate of others. For example, a focus on enquiry enables them to consider challenging questions of life and the impact of what people believe on how they live. Teachers and leaders receive high-quality RE training and support. As a result, engaging and thought-provoking lessons are enabling pupils to develop a growing understanding of religions and worldviews. Pupils enjoy their RE lessons in which they explore differences and reflect on their own ways of living, believing and thinking. This is a school that is enabling curious, confident learners to flourish within a strong Christian community.

The inspection findings indicate that Copthorne Church of England Junior School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	9 October 2023	URN	126013
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	214
Diocese	Chichester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Helen Denison		
Chair	Frances Strickley		
Inspector	Susan Costa	No.	902