

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Easebourne Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Easebourne Street, Midhurst, GU29 0BD
School vision	
<p>In a safe, loving environment built on the strong Christian values of faith, hope and love, we want our children to achieve excellence and a love of learning, fulfilling their potential, and to build their life skills, experiences and dreams. We also seek to connect our children with their learning, their wider community and the environment.</p> <p>And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong partnership between the school and the church roots Easebourne Primary as a Church of England school. • Living out the school's core Christian values, particularly love, encourages pupils and adults to care deeply about each other. • Senior leadership has a good understanding of the school as a Church school and is committed to its Christian vision and values. • Spiritual flourishing is firmly established in worship and is developing well across the curriculum. • Collective worship is the highlight of the day. It is uplifting and joyous and brings the whole school together to reflect on life's big questions. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed a vision which is based on firm, explicitly Christian roots and which guides the school's journey towards excellence. • Leaders, including governors, to regularly evaluate the school as a Church school, in order to inform effective actions. • Provide further continuous professional development (CPD) for staff so that they can deliver the revised religious education (RE) curriculum effectively. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Easebourne's Christian vision has created a culture that has faith, hope and love at its heart. The verse from Corinthians highlights 'love' as the greatest of these values. This creates a warm and caring school environment in which everyone is nurtured. It fosters positive relationships among pupils, staff, the church and the village of Easebourne. The biblical roots of the school's vision are thoroughly explored through worship. However, the school's Christian vision is not known or understood beyond pupils and staff.</p> <p>Governors are very committed to Easebourne. They visit often and know the school well. They</p>	

monitor its effectiveness as a Church school regularly. However, evaluation does not take place so opportunities to inform the next steps are not taken.

The curriculum is developing with the values of faith, hope and love as the driver for this change. The diocese has supported the school to enrich the curriculum with opportunities to develop spirituality. The exciting outside environment has been created to offer many opportunities for reflection. Spirituality is proactively developed in Easebourne's forest school sessions. Leaders' commitment to an inspirational curriculum leads to termly visits giving pupils experiences to reflect on the wonders around us.

Collective worship is a strength of this school and is greatly valued. Clergy from the church work with leaders and pupils to plan worship. This has ensured that it is designed well and is highly creative. It includes a range of inspirational styles that enhance spiritual growth. Worship provides a sense of community with everyone recognising that the Christian values are the focus. Worship is led by clergy once a week which enhances pupils' understanding of the school value of faith. Pupils are encouraged to think, to join in, to reflect, to pray and to enjoy stillness. This is an important daily spiritual opportunity. Once a week worship is led by pupils from Year 5. This follows a well-organised, Christian format. It gives pupils more time to consider the weekly big questions such as 'What would you have in your heaven'. However, pupils cannot always articulate how the Bible stories that they hear in worship relate to their own everyday lives.

Worship follows the cycle of the Christian calendar, including major festivals which are celebrated in the church. This has led to many pupils and families engaging in church activities and services. This enhances an understanding and appreciation of the Anglican foundation of the school.

Leaders are mindful of the importance of good wellbeing for staff and pupils. They link this to the vision as they recognise that connecting pupils with their learning relies on personal wellbeing. Harmonious, caring relationships, inspired by the vision are central to this. The calmness within the spacious school building and the beautiful views from every window contribute to a sense of peacefulness. Staff are appreciated, they talk about a sense of togetherness which is rooted in, the school's value of love. The therapeutic behaviour policy and the school rules of 'ready, respectful, safe', enhance the learning and wellbeing for all pupils. Resources are used to target those who need extra support. The proactive support for pupils and families identified as being vulnerable and/or disadvantaged makes the vision a living reality. This makes a positive difference to pupils who benefit from additional emotional support. It also enables everyone to take part in the many extra-curricular activities available.

Pupils are inspired to be agents of change through their democratically chosen annual house charity. Houses, led by house captains, raise awareness and funds for causes that are meaningful to them such as cancer research. Pupils who wish to champion a cause are given encouragement and facilitated to do so. Issues faced by pupils with dyslexia was the focus of a worship and a colouring competition was organised. This led to a bookcase of dyslexia friendly books being purchased for the library. Leaders, conscious of the context of Easebourne arrange an annual interfaith event for other schools that they work closely with. This provides meaningful occasions for pupils to consider difference and diversity. Leaders are determined to include opportunities in the revised curriculum to empower pupils to make ethical choices and challenge injustice.

As an outworking of the school's vision, very strong partnerships connect the school with the communities to which it belongs. This has resulted in a strong bond between the school and the church. Clergy and members of the congregation are a regular, supportive and greatly appreciated presence in the school. The partnership with the Cowdray estate, in which the school sits, results in pupils participating in Cowdray community week. This leads to pupils participating in activities such

as helping the Forestry Commission and packing bags in the farm shop. In the spirit of 'give and you shall receive' Cowdray undertakes tasks at the school such as fixing paving slabs.

RE is a focus in the school. Senior leaders worked with the diocese to produce a whole school RE plan which is sequenced, relevant and engaging. The syllabus is enhanced through the use of specialist resources which strengthen the depth of pupils' knowledge. The curriculum has a good balance between Christianity and a wide range of religions and worldviews. This gives pupils the opportunity to consider a breadth of diverse beliefs and cultures. CPD has ensured that staff know and understand this plan. Leaders are writing detailed termly plans for each year group which flow from the whole school plan. These provide lesson objectives which deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding. One pupil noted 'the more I learn the more I understand'. Each unit ends with an evaluation lesson so that pupils and teachers can assess the progress that has been made. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about RE, they particularly enjoy the calmness of the lessons. Clergy give generously of their time. Their input and knowledge result in pupils' critical engagement with religious text and enhances teachers' subject knowledge. Governors are active in monitoring individual RE lessons ensuring they are accurate and challenging.

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

Information			
Inspection date	18 January 2024	URN	126003
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	228
Diocese	Chichester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Simon Trahern		
Chair	Vickie Hampshire		
Inspector	Janice Meyer	No.	921