



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Forest Row Church of England Primary School	
Address	School Lane, Forest Row, RH18 5EB

School vision
<p>Every child who journeys through our school family, no matter what their starting point, will grow into loving adults who are forever inspired to learn and ready for life's adventures.</p> <p>'Treat others just as you want to be treated' (Luke 6:31)</p>

School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders at the Bluebell Federation have made the school's Christian vision a living reality. It drives decisions at all levels. As a result pupils and adults flourish. • The school's Christian vision is integral to the life and work of the school. This has created a caring nurturing culture in which wellbeing is enhanced and pupils and adults are treated well. • The school's vision inspired single rule has had a significant impact on the kindness that pupils and adults show each other. • The school's vision motivates staff to carefully plan for all children, especially the most vulnerable. This ensures that pupils are supported well and are thriving. • Religious education (RE) at Forest Row is well led and effectively monitored . This combined with a carefully planned curriculum has resulted in learning opportunities which engage and challenge pupils.

Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen the understanding of how the school's Christian vision enables pupils to flourish by sharing it with parents and carers. • Develop a shared understanding and language of spirituality. This is to deepen spiritual experiences in a consistent way across worship and the curriculum. • Extend high quality training opportunities to all leaders of the school's collective worship. This is to enable rich experiences that promote spiritual flourishing.

Inspection findings
<p>Forest Row is a school that lives its Christian vision. This has created a culture in which people from a range of backgrounds, faiths and world views flourish together as one community. It is a setting with love and kindness at its heart. The whole school family knows the golden rule 'treat others just as you wish to be treated yourself' extremely well. However, parents and carers do not have a clarity of understanding of the school's vision.</p> <p>Forest Row has recently joined The Bluebell Federation, making a partnership of three local Church schools. The Bluebell Federation's vision steers the Forest Row vision well. Knowledgeable and dedicated leaders and governors of this new partnership bring considerable experience and skills.</p>

This has transformed the effectiveness of Forest Row as a Church school and as a result all flourish.

The well established golden rule of treat others just as you want to be treated yourself, is well known by all pupils and adults. It is part of the everyday language of the school. They clearly live by this one single mandate. It has created a culture in which everyone is treated with care and respect. Pupils rightly feel a sense of responsibility towards others. Pupils correctly follow this rule outside of school and teach it to others.

It is very clear that governors are committed to The Bluebell Federation and Forest Row school. They have a system in place for monitoring the school's vision. However, this process is in its infancy and is variable at times. The evaluation that arises from this monitoring, and next steps taken as a result, are not clear.

The original curriculum has been enhanced with the Christian vision as the driver for this change. At the request of parents and carers, experiential learning and visits have been included. Topics studied have successfully prompted pupils to become agents of change. The Year 2 topic 'Where the land meets the sea' led the raising of money for the Royal National Lifeboat institution. Enriching the curriculum and worship with spiritual flourishing is in the early stages of development. Forest school is already taking place offering opportunities for experiencing spirituality. Welcoming and accessible reflection areas in the classrooms and around the school provide places for quiet personal thought. Pupils are empowered to challenge injustice through the curriculum and through partnerships such as the 'Guinea Pig Club' burns unit and the community gardening project. These challenges have a positive impact on the lives of all those involved. Staff are developing a 'looking in, looking out, looking beyond' approach to develop spirituality as a unifying and sustaining force within Forest Row. However a shared understanding and a planned approach has not been established across the school.

Pastoral support alongside mental health and well being are taken seriously. The school's vision has ensured that leaders prioritise provision for pupils and adults. As a result some excellent conditions for learning, such as the sensory rooms, have been created. The appointment of specialist staff is carefully considered so that pupils needs are diligently planned for. They are given the help they require in order that everyone successfully becomes 'life long learners who are inspired and ready to learn'.

Enthusiastic and spontaneous singing and signing fill the school hall during whole school worship. This creates an atmosphere of the community coming together as one. Staff sensitively support pupils so that all are included and can participate. The Christian values of fairness, respect, hope, responsibility, resilience, love and kindness are effectively explored in worship. The school uses the Bible as a source of inspiration and learning. Each value is explained through a story or verse. These also link to the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. Consequently, worship enhances pupils' insight into how the values are useful and relevant in today's world. Once a week, worship focusses on a current news story from around the world. These include a thought provoking, philosophical question and inspire values such as confidence, respect, tolerance and compassion. The cycle of the church calendar, including major Christian festivals are observed. As a result pupils' understanding and appreciation is greatly enhanced. Worship across the Bluebell Federation is enriched by experienced leaders whose focus is to enable pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. There is a variety of different types of worship taking place each week. However, there are not systems in place to evaluate worship leaders effectiveness.

The school is building a stronger partnership with the parish church and local clergy. As a result worship is led by clergy once a month and church leaders are a positive presence around the school. There is a growing relationship with other local churches and ministers lead worship in

school. Harvest Festival, the Christmas carol service, Easter and the leavers service are celebrated at Holy Trinity church. These special times are thoroughly enjoyed and very well attended by pupils family members.

Leadership in RE is experienced and effective. Their knowledge is kept relevant and up-to-date through regular attendance at diocesan training and meetings. Feeding this back to staff aids the high quality teaching and learning in RE. Pupils rightly speak with enthusiasm about RE. Regular monitoring results in targeted continuing professional development for staff. The syllabus is enhanced through the use of specialist resources. These strengthen the depth of pupils' knowledge of Christianity. 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. Pupils are continuously challenged in RE through 'big questions' such as 'conflict: good, bad or necessary?' Further challenge comes at the end of each year when pupils compare and contrast Christianity to the other religions and worldviews. This enriches pupils' understanding of difference. It supports them to grow into 'loving adults' who respect and 'treat everyone just as they would like to be treated themselves'.

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

Information			
Inspection date	22 November 2023	URN	114504
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	161
Diocese	Chichester		
MAT/Federation			
Executive Headteacher , Deputy Executive Headteacher, Head of School	Gemma White, Petrina Ferris, Laura Drury		
Chair	Jenny Barnard Langston		
Inspector	Janice Meyer	No.	921