

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Northiam Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	Main Street, Northiam, East Sussex, TN31 6NB

### School vision

*'Where every child flourishes and every day holds an abundance of opportunities.'*

We want Northiam to inspire an abundance of life by cherishing learning. Our purpose is to nurture and develop the abundance of talents entrusted to each individual, so that they reach their potential as God intends, in mind, spirit, body and soul.

*"I came that they may have and enjoy life and have it in abundance, to the full, till it overflows" John 10:10*

### School strengths

- This school is an inclusive school where nobody is beyond the ambition of the Christian vision. Leaders are in tune with the diverse needs of pupils and their families, and they strive to meet them. This includes those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Driven by the school's vision of 'life in all its fullness', school leaders work tirelessly to shape a curriculum that enables pupils to flourish. It results in the growing of their talents and the development of their self-confidence.
- Leaders have created a safe and supportive culture for pupils. Pupils are valued and cared for by all staff. This defines how they respect and value one another.
- There is an abundance of partnerships that have been formed with the local community which have enhanced the opportunities for pupils and families.

### Areas for development

- Develop opportunities for pupils to engage with issues of local and global injustice, in order that they become proactive agents of change.
- Build on the religious education (RE) curriculum to ensure that learning about world faiths helps pupils to develop a deeper understanding of diversity.

## Inspection findings

Northiam's Christian vision is strongly rooted in John's gospel, welcoming life in all its fullness. Leaders demonstrate a deep understanding of how this translates into a vision that can impact upon every child. As a result of this, leaders and staff are tenacious about reducing barriers and widening inclusive opportunities. This is evident through policy and practice across the school. Pupils at this school are recognised as individuals, all of whom deserve the opportunity to flourish. Since joining the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust, Northiam School has benefitted from this partnership of support and opportunity. This is reflected in the curriculum and wider provision now on offer to both pupils and staff. Pupils speak enthusiastically about how the school cares for them and helps them to be their best. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the care and nurture provided to their children. Relationships with the village community continue to enhance the school experience provided to pupils.

The vision has shaped the curriculum in place for pupils, with the school's values being interwoven throughout. Pupils' strengths and needs are carefully considered to enable them to access learning effectively. Extra-curricular opportunities exist to widen horizons and offer pupils new experiences. For example, 'Friday Focus' afternoons engage and inspire pupils. These allow pupils to visit forest school, harvest vegetables from their farm and take part in the creative arts. Animals on site allow further chances for pupils to show care and kindness. Pupils express how the wider curriculum enables them to work together, build confidence and care for others. Staff work together to ensure that pupils are offered these opportunities in abundance. This results in a curriculum that all pupils can engage with, including those who are vulnerable or have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

Collective worship offers an opportunity for calm and reflection for pupils and staff. Leaders of collective worship ensure that their termly school values are rooted in scripture and accessible to pupils. Adults and pupils value the time to come together and sing, respond and pray. Pupils participate by writing and leading prayers, reading and helping. The school's recently created 'Courage Squad' is beginning to take some responsibility in worship. Reflection spaces are provided around the school where pupils may choose to engage in prayer or quiet moments of personal reflection. Through a strengthened partnership with St Mary's Church, local clergy have become more involved with leading and attending worship at the school. Services at the church have also provided an opportunity to inspire pupils as well as to engage parents and families.

In line with the vision, the school has created a culture where pupils and adults are treated well and know how to treat others well. Pupils speak confidently about difference, uniqueness and respect within their school community. This sense of harmony and care for others is evident, both within the classroom and during social times. Pupils know how to learn and play well together, and they understand how the school values help them to do this. Pupils have a deep sense of how much the staff care about them and are confident sharing their worries with adults within school. Mental health is a priority for the school and the academy trust. Support mechanisms are in place for staff, pupils and their families when needed. There is a culture of individual care and nurture for this school community, and parents recognise and value this. As a result of this, families are willing to share concerns and are receptive to support from the school. Parents speak of how staff have supported their child through difficult times. One parent encapsulated this, saying, "Our children are not numbers at this school - they are each an individual child".

For this small rural school, forging partnerships within the community has contributed greatly to pupils' experiences. Pupils have benefited from the expertise of those who have shared their time and talents to enrich the learning of pupils. As a result, pupils have acquired knowledge and gained new skills through a richly diverse curriculum. For example, pupils have learnt how to care for bees near the school site with the help of a local beekeeper. In return, the school works effectively with local outside agencies to provide support for those in their community.

Pupils recognise the positive contribution that they can make to those around them within their school. They enjoy opportunities to have a voice within the school, becoming involved in identifying suggested improvements and making these changes. Pupils have some awareness of global issues and are supported to think deeply and reflect upon events happening in the world around them. However, pupils are not yet routinely encouraged to move beyond these reflections to make their own difference in the wider world.

The newly-introduced RE curriculum uses enquiry-based questions to encourage deep thinking and personal reflection. Pupils can offer opinions and confidently share their thoughts respectfully with others. Leaders have considered how to sequence this curriculum to build on pupils' knowledge. World faiths are taught across the breadth of the RE curriculum. However, pupils do not fully recognise how the world faiths studied can contribute to an appreciation of diversity in a multi-faith world. The academy trust offers RE hubs, peer support and training to support staff expertise. As a result of this, staff subject knowledge is secure for the delivery of the curriculum.

Northiam's embedded Christian vision is being explicitly lived out in this caring and inclusive school. Working as a school community, lives are being enhanced and transformed to enable a life lived in all its fullness.

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

Information			
Inspection date	28 June 2024	URN	148742
VA/VC/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	148
Diocese	Chichester		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Julia Bray		
Chair	Judith Koral		
Inspector	Rosie Piper	No.	C 23.24