

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Burwash Church of England Primary School

Vision

Let Love abide here:
Love for one another.
Love for life itself.
Love of God

CARING CHILDREN LOVING LEARNING

Burwash 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.

Strengths

- The Christian vision of Burwash Church of England Primary School is clearly defined, understood and embedded. In this way it has a tangible presence, visibly lived out by adults and pupils.
- Collective worship is carefully considered, well-planned and expertly delivered. The shared ownership of the Christian vision is integral to the way worship contributes to adults and pupils' spiritual development.
- Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those deemed vulnerable, are given opportunities to thrive. Barriers to learning are swiftly identified and broken down allowing pupils to believe in themselves and succeed.
- The school's inspirational curriculum is rich and offers academic, creative and spiritual development. This enthuses and engages pupils in developing a curiosity of the world and a love of learning.
- Religious education (RE) is well-led and managed. As a result, there is a balanced and clearly sequenced RE curriculum. This enables pupils to have a secure understanding of a range of worldviews.

Development Points

- Extend and embed opportunities for pupils to evaluate the impact of collective worship on them. This is to enrich the way it provides moments for their spiritual flourishing.



Inspection Findings

Burwash Church of England Primary is a welcoming, happy and nurturing school where the Christian vision is lived out fully. The school community is powerfully inspired to 'let love abide here'. In this way, love for one another is tangible in the daily interactions between adults and pupils. Secure, ambitious leaders model the vision through the decisions they make, the way they work, and the partnerships they develop. They lead by example, inspiring others to embrace the vision. In this way, pupils and adults flourish through love of one another, love of life itself and love of God. Governors have a clear understanding of their role in actively supporting the Christian vision and their presence in school is well-established. Governors closely monitor key aspects of the school's work and are actively involved in the life of the community. The impact of this, combined with leaders' actions, means pupils thrive, behave well and develop academically, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. This helps create a culture where pupils have a deep regard for each other, growing in care and respect. Adults are also enriched professionally and spiritually by the attention paid to their wellbeing and the way they feel valued.

The Christian vision underpins the inspirational and innovative curriculum. It is dynamic, regularly revisited and incorporates deeply meaningful opportunities to reflect spiritually. Pupils, including those with SEND, and those who are vulnerable, are encouraged to do their very best. Clear and established systems ensure that they are enabled to access the curriculum and experience success. Staff accurately identify those in need of additional assistance and use their expertise to support pupils in accessing their learning. Adults present pupils with well-considered extended learning opportunities which encourage them to become inquisitive and independent learners. They benefit from a broad range of trips and experiences which enrich the curriculum. These enhance pupils' engagement in their learning and help them develop a curiosity about the world around them. This lives out the vision of 'caring children loving learning' and provides opportunities to flourish spiritually.

Collective worship is a powerful element of the daily life of the school. It is clearly rooted in the Christian vision and values. Planning is exceptionally strong and biblically based. Pupils participate enthusiastically maintaining a sense of reverence. Frequent time for reflection and contemplation are built in, fostering a sense of peace and purpose. The rich and deep use of prayer is well-received. Reflection areas and prayer stations in classrooms, and around the school, provide opportunities to write prayers and reflect in different ways. The prayer tree is greatly valued, encouraging pupils to spend time being still and open to God's love. As a result, opportunities for pupils and adults to develop spiritually are nurtured. Strong partnerships with the parish church play a significant role in supporting worship, in school and beyond. Opportunities to visit the church and attend services at Harvest, Easter and Christmas strengthen the positive partnership between home and the local church. Leaders actively seek the views of the school community through evaluation activities to enrich spiritual development. Opportunities for pupils to speak independently to their peers about the impact of collective worship is at an early stage.

The vision of letting love abide creates an extremely nurturing and caring community. Partnerships are at the heart of the school's work. Strong links with the diocese and parish support the development of Burwash as a Church school. In addition to this, partnerships with local schools provide access to a wider range of resources, expertise and training opportunities. Pupils treat each other with dignity and respect. They interact well on the playground, with older children encouraging their younger peers. This carries into the classroom where pupils celebrate each other's achievements. Relationships between adults and pupils are strong and underpinned by mutual respect. Consequently, pupils enjoy coming to school and attendance is high. Staff feel appreciated, nurtured and supported



by leaders and express a love of working at the school. Parents are overwhelmingly positive, one commented on how the school has 'immeasurably grown my children'.

Pupils have a clear understanding of justice and responsibility. They show compassion to others and seek to challenge injustice and inequality whenever possible. Their sponsorship of a school in Malawi, support of the food bank and charities provide opportunities to live out this care. There is a clear understanding of the need to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. As a result, pupils show empathy towards local, national and global issues. This leads to them developing a profound sense of the needs of the world they live in and their place within it. Pupils are empowered to make a difference, taking their responsibilities seriously. Opportunities to express opinions and share ideas strengthen their sense of personal responsibility. Inspired by the Christian vision, they do this with confidence and thoughtfulness and a deep love for others. Consequently, pupils are equipped to make a difference within a deeply loving culture. They are furnished with a variety of opportunities to grow through leadership roles. The school council, eco council and values champions are actively involved in decision-making. In this way, pupil voice is highly effective, creating an active culture of justice which directly flows from the vision.

The ambitious and richly knowledgeable leadership of RE ensures it has a high profile in the school. Training from the diocese enhances staff subject knowledge, ensuring provision is strong. The curriculum is well-constructed, supporting pupils to build their knowledge over time. Opportunities to study a range of worldviews and religions, including Christianity ensure pupils have a deep understanding of diverse views. The exploration of big questions motivates pupils bringing about inquisitiveness. The curriculum provides moments for pupils to reflect deeply and critically, exploring their own views and the beliefs of others. As a result, pupils know about a variety of views and traditions and their knowledge of these promotes understanding, acceptance and respect of others.

Information

Address	Burwash CE Primary, School Hill, Burwash, Etchingham, East Sussex, TN19 7DZ		
Date	15 January 2025	URN	114492
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	161
Diocese/District	Chichester		
Headteacher	Debbie Gilbert		
Chair of Governors	Lindsay Macfarlane		
Inspector	Anthony Cosans		