

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

South Malling Church of England Primary School

Vision

At South Malling Church of England School, we believe everyone should be enabled to “live life in all its fullness” (John 10:10). Our vision is to give everyone opportunity and encouragement to:

Become active, lifelong learners

Communicate considerately and constructively

Be Curious and Creative

Think as global citizens and act as local citizens

Work at it with all your heart

South Malling 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 has been carefully developed. It drives the strategic direction of the school and decisions made by leaders. It is lived out by pupils and adults, providing them with the support and opportunities to ‘live life to the full’.
- The curriculum, guided by the vision, is aspirational and reflects the school’s context, community and locality. Engaging opportunities to learn about their local area foster in pupils a deep appreciation of where they live.
- Leaders, together with staff, have created a culture of love and kindness. The school is a place of welcome and belonging where individuals are valued, nurtured and cared for.
- Collective worship is meaningful and joyous. It provides very positive opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual flourishing.
- Pupils understand the importance of justice and they are active in taking responsibility for others. They are empowered to act when they see injustice in the world and make a positive difference within and beyond their community.

Development Points

- Equip staff to deliver and embed the religious education (RE) curriculum effectively. This is to ensure that pupils develop a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the range of religions and worldviews that they study.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision has been thoughtfully designed and is used purposefully. It is lived out daily, through the school's values that include hope, perseverance and respect. The vision and associated values are fully understood and embraced by pupils and adults. This helps to foster a strong drive within the school community to live life fully. Leaders, guided by the Christian vision, provide a firm foundation for pupils, enabling them to flourish personally and academically. This is because creativity and enrichment are features of the school's approach to ensure that pupils are well-rounded people and learners. Adults are enabled to grow professionally and personally. They are encouraged to undertake training and research linked to their personal interests and professional development. This enables them to flourish in their roles and support pupils' individual needs effectively. Leaders, including governors, monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision robustly. Thus, the vision continues to underpin decision making so that pupils and adults flourish.

The school's vision and values guide the ambitious curriculum. This supports pupils' academic, emotional and spiritual development successfully. For example, there are opportunities for pupils to consider themselves and their relationship with the natural environment. School leaders have designed the curriculum to enhance pupils' existing talents and secure new skills and attributes. This helps them to live life to the full. The curriculum inspires pupils to be curious and excited to learn, including about their local area. In this way, they develop a strong sense of their place as local citizens. The curriculum meets the needs of vulnerable pupils well. This is because they are encouraged to aim high in their academic learning and character development. The many opportunities for outdoor learning, visits and visitors enhance this further. Pupils' oracy skills are sharpened deliberately and effectively within the curriculum. This develops pupils' confidence and self-esteem extremely well. Pupils engage readily in a range of extracurricular clubs, including drama and netball. These well-planned activities also ensure that pupils enjoy school and flourish.

Pupils benefit from rich and varied collective worship. It is welcoming and engaging, offering moments of stillness and reflection. These times of coming together create a strong sense of community and support the spiritual growth of pupils and adults well. This is because the whole school community is invited to join in this key part of the school day. There are many meaningful opportunities for developing a deeper understanding of the Christian faith. This is because pupils and staff learn about the life of Jesus and his teachings and the influence this may have on people's thinking. Staff and pupils contribute jubilantly to collective worship, including when leading different aspects, such as prayer. This further enhances their spiritual development through deepening their sense of connection. Leaders thoughtfully explore real-life events within worship, enabling pupils to reflect on their lives and how they can make wise choices. Staff benefit from the space to reflect within collective worship, providing a valuable time to stop and think about what is important. The partnership with the local church is strong. Leaders and clergy work successfully together to bring a rich diversity to worship. Families value joining the school for worship in the church, further fostering the sense of belonging.

Pupils and adults treat one another very well. An active culture of respect ensures that difference is celebrated widely. As a result, pupils gain a strong appreciation for the diversity of the world around them. Pastoral help for pupils and their families is a strength of, and a priority for, the school. The vision inspires in leaders a determination that pupils and adults receive care and nurture. This guides the school's educational and broader offer, helping pupils to be successful and to blossom. Staff effectively support pupils' wellbeing and teach them how to learn well together and respect others. This helps them to be independent and resilient. Pupils manage and develop



relationships well and know adults will help if something goes wrong. Parents and carers feel listened to and work in a cohesive partnership with the staff. Families receive practical advice and guidance, which helps those in most need. Staff wellbeing is a priority. Practical events, tips and guidance, including from the pastoral leader, provide a space to reflect and feel renewed. This has a positive impact on morale.

RE is highly valued, having a key place in the curriculum. The subject is engaging and structured well. Pupils explore a broad range of world faiths and worldviews, including Christianity, through key questions. This develops pupils' understanding through discussions and debates that add depth to their knowledge. However, pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews, other than Christianity, is not entirely secure. This is because teachers are not always confident in the delivery of the RE curriculum. As a result, the RE curriculum is not fully embedded. Pupils appreciate the importance of RE and how it broadens their understanding and respect for others. The curriculum is enriched by additional educational experiences that bring the learning in the classroom to life. For example, pupils read parts of the sacred books from a range of religions. This helps them to understand the sources of core teachings for the faiths that they study. Pupils also appreciate and remember what they have been taught from opportunities to express their understanding creatively, for example, through art.

The school's strong and active culture of justice and responsibility stems from its commitment to the school's vision. The curriculum enables pupils to understand fairness and accountability. Teaching is thoughtfully adapted to meet pupils' individual needs. This ensures that pupils engage and succeed in developing a strong understanding of what justice and injustice may look like. Pupils and staff have a clear understanding of the importance of, and difference between, treating people the same and providing everyone with what they need. Pupils are strongly encouraged to act in response to injustice. For example, pupils are vigorous in highlighting the local and global problem of pollution. They have taken their views into the wider community. Pupils are active in supporting local charities that they feel need their help, for example, a nearby children's hospital. As a result, pupils know how they can act to make a positive difference.

Information

Address	Church Lane, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2HS		
Date	1 May 2025	URN	114509
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	235
Diocese	Chichester		
Headteacher	Charlotte Roberts		
Chair of Governors	Mandi Ramshaw		
Inspector	Richard Blackmore		