

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

### Ferring Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

An inspiring place to grow, believe and achieve life in all its fullness. John 10:10.

Ferring 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 school's clear Christian vision powerfully shapes its strategic direction. This ensures that decisions are guided by a commitment to the growth and development of both pupils and adults. Rooted in the Christian values of love, hope, and joy, it inspires a community where people are nurtured to flourish.
- This is a joyful and hopeful community, characterised by respectful relationships and a culture of trust. Pupils and adults feel valued, supported, and empowered to 'grow, believe and achieve'.
- Strong partnerships between the school, church, and diocese provide valuable support. These relationships create a foundation of collaboration, enabling both pupils and adults to thrive.
- Collective worship is a valued and integral part of daily school life. It inspires pupils and adults to live out the Christian vision and fosters a strong sense of belonging. Through opportunities for stillness and reflection, worship makes a significant contribution to the development of spirituality.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is relevant, creative, and engaging. It enables pupils to develop a knowledge of world faiths including Christianity. This fosters an appreciation of diversity, supporting respectful attitudes.

#### Development Points

- Embed a robust and systematic approach to monitoring and evaluation by leaders and governors to inform the school's strategic direction.
- Continue refining the curriculum in all subjects so it clearly reflects the school's Christian vision. Provide further opportunities for pupils to aspire and engage deeply with their learning.
- Extend existing work around spirituality to ensure pupils develop the confidence and skills to recognise and express their personal spirituality.



## Inspection Findings

The Christian vision at Ferring Primary School is actively influencing its long-term planning and priorities. Expressed through the phrase 'grow with love, believe with hope, and achieve with joy', the vision is bringing transformational change. Although in the early stages of being embedded, the vision is having a positive impact. The school community is united and takes pride in the clear and purposeful direction of the school. A strong sense of hope and belief is evident throughout, inspiring pupils, staff, and families alike. This positive atmosphere is reflected in the confident way staff, parents and carers speak about the ongoing improvements. Parents and carers play an active role, volunteering generously to fundraise and organise community events. Partnerships with the parish church and local Baptist church are notably strong, enriching the spiritual life and identity of the school. Guidance from the diocese and local authority effectively inform staff professional development. This enables them to grow in confidence, develop skills, and thrive in their roles. Governors know the school well and understand how the vision underpins decision making and provision. However, current systems for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the vision are underdeveloped, limiting a full understanding of its effectiveness.

A safe, supportive atmosphere reflects the school's vision and encourages people to give their best. Daily routines are grounded in trust and respectful relationships. Leaders model the vision with energy and optimism. They set clear expectations rooted in dignity, respect and inclusion. This is evident in the quality of interactions across the school. Pupils and adults feel valued, known and supported. Staff invest time in building links with families. This helps them respond effectively to individual needs and circumstances. As a result, there is clear impact on wellbeing and good mental health. Pupils with additional needs are nurtured, and those struggling with attendance receive support. The school's commitment to hope and aspiration nurtures pupils and adults to grow and flourish.

Guided by the vision, there are clear expectations for pupils to achieve well through a broad and aspiring curriculum. This is being built upon principles that support the flourishing of mind, body, and spirit. While still in its early stages, the approach is having a positive impact. Learning is structured around engaging enquiry questions that prompt active thinking and meaningful response. A focus on skills and vocabulary enables pupils to articulate their learning with confidence. Pupils are motivated and respond well to practical, hands-on experiences. For example, while learning about Arctic explorers, pupils built outdoor shelters, helping them reflect on the challenges faced during expeditions. Younger pupils proudly describe how they grow vegetables in their allotment, ready to harvest and eat what they have nurtured. These rich experiences encourage pupils to reflect on themselves, understand others, and care for the world around them. In doing so, they make a strong contribution to the development of pupils' spirituality. Recently introduced pupil progress meetings play a key role in raising expectations across the school. They ensure that each pupil's needs are addressed so that they flourish. Pupils who are considered vulnerable are supported effectively through targeted interventions. The extra-curricular offer provides a wide range of enriching opportunities. Activities including sport and musical theatre allow pupils to explore new interests and develop skills outside the classroom. In turn, they help pupils to achieve with joy.

RE is given a high profile at Ferring and leaders are ambitious for its role in the curriculum. They recognise the impact RE has on pupils' understanding of diversity in the world around them. This ensures there is an appropriate, well-balanced curriculum that covers a range of world faiths including Christianity alongside other worldviews. Effective opportunities are provided for pupils to consider big questions and respond creatively. Partnership working with the diocese and local church enhance RE provision. Pupils value the subject because it broadens their



understanding of others. For example, through learning about Hindu views on reincarnation, pupils reflect on values such as kindness and determination as guiding principles for all.

The Christian vision fosters a culture where pupils develop their understanding of responsibility, justice, and moral action. Consistent application of the behaviour policy, rooted in the school's Christian values, reinforces this. The 'Ferring Footsteps' are based on the belief that everyone has the potential to grow and learn from their mistakes. As a result, pupils experience justice in action and are supported in developing personal accountability. They learn to take responsibility for others, with opportunities to lead and serve. For example, the pupil faith council contributes meaningfully to collective worship and offers reflections on how it can be improved. The enquiry led curriculum encourages pupils to apply their understanding to real-world contexts. Pupils engage actively with local and global issues. A visit to the local offshore wind farm helped older pupils explore the importance of sustainable energy. In addition, a visit from a water provider inspired younger pupils to take practical steps to conserve water. These experiences deepen pupils' awareness of justice, stewardship, and their role in contributing to a hopeful future.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. Expressing love, hope and joy, it is valued by pupils and adults as a peaceful space. Worship fosters a deep sense of community and offers rich opportunities for spiritual growth. Carefully planned acts of worship include moments of reflection, biblical teaching and joyful praise, creating an uplifting atmosphere. Pupils participate joyfully through singing and respectfully through prayer. Opportunities are provided for pupils to revisit and reflect on key themes, enabling them to explore Christian values more deeply. While worship has a clear impact on communal spirituality, pupils are not confident in articulating their personal spirituality. The school is enriched by strong partnerships with the local parish and Baptist church. Church leaders are valued members of the school community. They regularly lead worship and support the school's spiritual life. Pupils attend services at the parish church during key Christian festivals, such as Easter and Christmas. This enhances their sense of belonging within the wider Ferring community.

## Information

Address	Sea Lane, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 5DU.		
Date	23 June 2025	URN	125982
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	170
Diocese	Chichester		
Headteacher	James Cox		
Chair of Governors	Robin Brenchley		
Inspector	Susan Costa		