

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Compton and Up Marden Church of England Primary School

Vision

Living life in all its fullness – John 10.10

This is enacted through our motto of ‘excite, engage, include.’ To live a full life and to flourish, pupils need to be excited by their learning. If they are excited, they are engaged and if they are engaged then all are included.

Compton and Up Marden 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.

Notable Strengths

- The embedded Christian vision is at the heart of the school. The approach of ‘excite, engage and include’ inspires decision-making by leaders and governors, helping pupils and adults to flourish.
- Guided by the vision, leaders demonstrate a strong commitment to inclusion. They foster a caring community where pupils and adults feel valued, respected and accepted.
- Rooted in its Christian vision, the curriculum offers enriching experiences that excite and engage pupils, sparking curiosity and building confidence.
- Pupils demonstrate a strong sense of responsibility towards one another and the world around them. Knowing their opinions matter, pupils willingly take action to make a positive difference.

Development Points

- Revise the religious education (RE) curriculum to ensure learning is well sequenced and progressive. This is to enable pupils to build on prior knowledge and deepen their understanding of religions and non-religious worldviews.
- Embed the school’s approach to spirituality through the curriculum. This is to enable pupils and staff to reflect and express their thoughts, enriching their spiritual flourishing.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Compton and Up Marden has experienced a significant and positive journey. Joining the Downland Village Schools Federation has brought renewed energy, stability and direction to this small rural school. There is a clear commitment to continued improvement, underpinned by a valued partnership with the diocese. Inspired by the Christian vision to 'excite, engage and include', leaders make decisions that prioritise the flourishing of the school community. The governing body knows and articulates the vision well, ensuring governance discussions are consistently rooted in its principles. Compton and Up Marden is characterised by a welcoming and inclusive culture, shaped by genuine care and strong relationships. The school has a 'big heart', reflecting the warmth and compassion evident throughout the setting. Pupils and adults flourish within an environment where Christian values, including love, hope and respect, are lived out each day.

Vision and Curriculum

Approached through the key principles of 'excite, engage and include', the curriculum enables pupils to flourish in their learning. A wealth of practical activities promotes exploration and enquiry, sparking pupils' curiosity. Reflecting the rural setting, pupils learn about the natural world. Younger pupils observe and paint detailed images of birds, identifying them as goldfinches, thrushes and jays. Older pupils collect and crush blackberries, elderberries and sloes, creating natural dyes to tie-dye fabrics. Through these experiences, pupils develop a deep respect for the world around them, recognising their role as stewards of God's creation. Pupils' fascination with learning, alongside opportunities for visits and clubs, makes a significant contribution to their spiritual development. Pupils are beginning to express their spirituality through the school's developing shared approach. Leaders model 'wows' and 'ows' of life and experience. However, this approach is not consistently embedded within the curriculum. Consequently, pupils lack the depth of understanding needed to recognise and articulate their own spirituality. Alongside this, staff adapt teaching and support effectively, enabling pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to thrive. Additional one-to-one and small-group sessions with specialist practitioners help pupils achieve emotional balance and engage with learning.

Religious Education

RE is a priority and reflects the school's Christian vision of enabling pupils to experience life in all its fullness. They explore diversity and understand how faith and belief shape people's lives. This approach engages pupils in exploring beliefs through living, thinking and believing. A range of activities, including drama and art, enable pupils to communicate their learning in varied ways. They value opportunities for discussion, through which they explore varying perspectives and express their personal views. Pupils speak confidently and use appropriate vocabulary when discussing Christianity, as well as a wide range of religions and worldviews. Leaders collaborate with federation and diocesan colleagues, ensuring the RE curriculum is regularly reviewed and evaluated. Following the introduction of a new syllabus and bespoke training, leaders have prioritised a curriculum review. They have accurately identified the need for greater progression. The current curriculum does not revisit religious and non-religious worldviews frequently enough to secure progressive learning. Consequently, pupils do not consistently build on prior knowledge or develop the depth of understanding expected over time.

Worship and Spirituality

Pupils and adults value gathering each day for collective worship, which provides purposeful opportunities to pause and reflect. Carefully planned themes enable them to deepen their understanding of Christian practice and apply its messages to daily life. Pupils demonstrate respect and forgiveness, showing how worship influences their relationships and choices. Drama and song are used effectively, making Bible stories memorable and helping them understand biblical teaching. Dedicated time for reflection enables pupils to engage with the school's shared approach to spiritual development. Thoughtful questions encourage them to give thanks for 'wows' and reflect on 'ow' moments within their lives. Prayer is a key element of Compton and Up Marden's approach to Christian spirituality. It is embedded within the worshipping life of the school and is inclusive. Pupils and adults embrace opportunities for spontaneous prayer, expressing thankfulness, hope and trust. Close relationships with the local church make a positive contribution to the school's worshipping life.



Visits to the church are valued by pupils, staff and families, providing meaningful opportunities to celebrate Christian festivals together.

Vision and School Culture

Driven by the Christian vision, leaders cultivate an inclusive culture where pupils feel supported and ready to learn. Staff nurture respectful relationships through calm, thoughtful assistance, promoting kindness, trust and a sense of belonging. Consequently, pupils know they are valued and develop confidence as individuals. Calm spaces and sensitive adult responses help pupils manage difficulties and remain engaged in their learning. They are nurtured to flourish as unique individuals. Leaders build strong relationships with families, helping pupils feel secure and settled in school. Staff foster trust, encouraging pupils and families to seek support. Their wellbeing is prioritised by leaders through positive relationships, practical assistance and access to professional development. Collaboration across the federation strengthens the team and provides valuable opportunities for staff to learn from one another. Staff receive personal and professional guidance, enabling them to flourish in their roles and contribute to school life. Consequently, adults feel valued and confident in their responsibilities. Staff and leaders uphold the school's vision, working together to promote a sense of fullness of life.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Through the curriculum, pupils explore how to care for the earth and make responsible choices. They discuss environmental consequences of deforestation and consider the impact of human actions on the natural world. This inspires pupils to be 'keen to be green', taking responsibility for reducing waste and recycling products. Other aspects of learning develop pupils' understanding of justice and inclusion. They value diversity and recognise that people have varying needs and perspectives. Pupils understand the importance of challenging discrimination and stereotypes, demonstrating a growing commitment to fairness and inclusion. Within school, older peers make a difference by becoming buddies for new pupils joining Reception. This contributes significantly to the school's inclusive culture, with pupils happily supporting one another. They demonstrate care for others during playtimes and lunchtimes, helping to create a welcoming community. Pupils are proud of the difference they make and recognise their capacity to make positive change. For example, the pupil 'Foodies' group contributes to school life by ensuring bespoke hot lunches are both nutritious and delicious.

Information

Address	School Lane, Compton, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 9EZ		
Date	21 September 2026	URN	125979
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	74
Diocese	Chichester		
Federation	Downland Village Schools Federation		
Federation Chair	Chris Hawker		
Headteacher	David Bertwistle (Executive Headteacher) Richard Christmas (Head of School)		
Inspector	Susan Costa		