



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Sculthorpe Church of England Primary School	
Address	Creake Road, Sculthorpe, Fakenham, NR21 9NQ
School vision	
<p>We are 3 small schools where big things happen; We celebrate the hidden treasure that we can nurture with joy and hope in every child. We foster independence, develop courage and resilience and shape our children to be life-long learners so that they may Have faith, FLOURISH and fly high.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong partnerships with the federation, trust and diocese make the vision a reality for the school community. Working together, they unlock pupils' potential, preparing them for the lives that lie ahead of them. • Positive relationships support every aspect of the work of the school which results in a culture of love and concern for all. Consequently, the well-being of everyone in the school community is enhanced. • The curriculum is carefully shaped by the vision. With a focus on broadening horizons and raising aspirations, pupils become enthusiastic and successful learners. • A creative approach to collective worship enables pupils to understand the meaning of the vision in daily life in an engaging way. It provides opportunities for reflection and celebration, and makes a significant contribution to the spiritual development of the school community. • Religious Education (RE) is well-led by a strong and passionate subject leader. It has a high profile in the curriculum and is well-planned and taught. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways for pupils to express their personal response to learning in RE. This is to develop confidence in articulating and sharing their knowledge and understanding with others. • Develop pupils' understanding of how they can make a difference through social action projects beyond the local community. This is so that they grow in their understanding of the positive impact they can have on the world. • Embed the shared language and understanding of spirituality in both collective worship and the curriculum. This will enable pupils to understand and articulate their growing spiritual awareness. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>A sense of shared purpose in searching for the hidden treasure within everyone promotes flourishing at Sculthorpe Academy. Staff work tirelessly to find and nurture the potential in pupils.</p>	

Achievements are recognised and celebrated with joy. Adults and pupils describe the happiness this brings to the school community. Strong partnerships provide a solid foundation for the work of the school. There is a clear understanding of the importance of the vision in driving school improvement. This is seen in the reworking of the school's provision to make it more effective in preparing pupils for life in a diverse society. Working within a federation and the Diocese of Norwich Academies Trust provides strength and support. This empowers leaders to implement change and monitor the impact of the school's provision.

The school's vision is brought to life through the words 'Have faith, flourish and fly high'. These words are known and understood by the school community. Staff and pupils explain the importance of self-belief in order to reach potential and lead fulfilling lives. As a result of this shared understanding, Sculthorpe provides an aspirational education well-suited to the community it serves. Families value the education this small school offers.

A new curriculum, tailored to the needs of the school community, is effective in supporting the vision. A commitment to bringing joy to the curriculum supports pupils in the development of a lifelong love of learning. Thoughtfully planned activities spark pupils' curiosity and creativity. Those in the early years benefit from the outdoor environment as they explore and respond to the world around them. The curriculum challenges thinking and enables pupils to consider how their learning applies to their own lives. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 are fascinated by the 'If the world were a village' model. Comparing their own lives with this global data opens pupils' eyes to the wider world. The school offers a rich curriculum beyond the classroom. Visits to new places and meeting new people broadens horizons and helps pupils to understand the world around them. School leaders plan opportunities to support pupils' spiritual development through the curriculum. However, pupils are not able to articulate clearly the ways in which this work enables their spiritual flourishing.

The school's commitment to supporting vulnerable pupils and their families is reflected in its work. Driven by the vision, there is a clear understanding that equality is achieved by providing the right support according to need. Pupils are valued as 'precious pearls' within this inclusive school community. Carefully planned intervention and support enables those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to access the curriculum. Close partnerships with outside agencies enhances provision. Parents speak of how the work of the school has transformed the educational experiences of their children.

The school's creative approach to worship enriches the spiritual development of the school community. It provides opportunities for pupils and adults to explore the Christian faith in different ways. Listening to Bible stories and then responding through creative arts and crafts deepens understanding of the Christian message. Pupil ambassadors enhance the spiritual life of the school. They use their own understanding of spirituality to plan activities for their peers. These encourage reflection and prompt discussion. Adults speak openly about their own spiritual response to collective worship. They describe the sense of continuity and peace as they reflect upon the generations who have worshipped together. As a result of this, they are confident to lead worship further enriching provision. Pupils lead the village Remembrance Service with pride and enjoy decorating the church in preparation for Christmas. This helps them to understand their place in the church community.

Positive relationships provide a strong foundation to support the work of the school. There is a shared understanding that everyone should be valued as a 'precious pearl' to be treasured and cared for. Adults work flexibly with colleagues in pursuit of a common goal. Consequently, there is a culture of love and genuine concern which enhances wellbeing. The vision has an impact beyond the school. Parents feel listened to and supported in times of need. A consistent approach to behaviour management sets clear expectations based upon mutual respect. Restorative practices are effective

in rebuilding relationships when things go wrong. Pupils are given time to reflect to enable them to learn from their mistakes and grow as individuals.

Pupil ambassadors known as 'The Inspirers' take the lead in challenging social injustice in the community. They describe with enthusiasm their work to raise funds for a child with epilepsy. Helping at a local nursery and singing in the local supermarket at Christmas supports pupils in understanding how they may serve others. This community work benefits everyone involved and promotes flourishing within and beyond the school. Pupils describe the happiness they feel when they know that they have made a difference. An understanding of social justice on a global scale is explored through learning about the impact of deforestation on the climate. However, there are few opportunities for this learning to have an impact beyond the classroom.

RE is well-led by a dedicated and knowledgeable subject leader and is regarded as a core subject. Working closely with the diocese ensures that teachers have the knowledge and skills to teach RE with confidence. Monitoring by school leaders highlighted gaps in pupils' learning which thoughtful planning and focused teaching is effectively addressing. Pupils experience ways of reflecting on their own beliefs and those of others as a result of their learning in RE. This makes a valuable contribution to the school's ambition to provide a curriculum based upon diversity, empowerment, curiosity and aspiration. It provides a space to talk, listen and try to make sense of people, events, worldviews and beliefs around the world. Displays and class scrapbooks prompt pupils to talk about their learning and how it applies to their lives. With guidance, pupils explore how to express their learning in different ways. This work is supporting the development of assessment systems in RE.

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

Information			
Inspection date	20 June 2024	URN	141918
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	57
Diocese	Norwich		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust		
Executive Headteacher	Suzannah Hayes		
Chair	Bruce Gordon		
Inspector	Helen Simms	No.	2325