

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Sherrier Church of England Primary School

Vision

‘Teach children how to live and they will remember it all their lives.’ Proverbs 22:6

At Sherrier, we aim to create a positive learning environment where everyone is valued, supported and encouraged to achieve within our Christian ethos. Our curriculum nurtures creativity, compassion and community spirit. We develop creative individuals who problem-solve and think from different perspectives through the arts and philosophical thinking. We foster compassionate individuals who care for themselves, others and the world, taking positive action to help. We cultivate community-spirited individuals who understand their local area and contribute to their communities. By instilling these values, we prepare our children to lead lives filled with purpose and passion.

Strengths

- The school’s Christian vision is modelled by leaders who show dedication and commitment. It drives decision making and motivates pupils to flourish as independent and deep-thinking individuals.
- The Christian vision frames the school’s curriculum. It is based on enquiry and investigation that promotes enthusiasm to learn more. As a result, pupils become confident and resilient learners.
- A strong emphasis on nurture enhances the school community. Pupils value the loving support provided and staff feel enriched by the care shown for their own mental health and wellbeing.
- A deep understanding of the school’s Christian values promotes a culture of justice and responsibility. Pupils actively research local and global issues. This leads to innovative responses that raises awareness and inspires practical action to support those in need.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is carefully planned and taught. Lessons motivate pupils to investigate a range of beliefs and practices. This encourages growth as they consider their own views.

Development Points

- Review the school vision to ensure that its Christian distinctiveness is clearly understood by the school community.
- Develop the planning of collective worship so that pupils have greater opportunities to respond to what they experience. This is so that they can grow spiritually and consider how Bible stories can impact on their lives.
- Extend pupil’s knowledge of Christianity as a global faith and increase experiences that investigate a variety of religious practices in their own community.



Inspection Findings

The well-established Christian vision has evolved from Sherrier School's original foundations. It reflects the intention of Edward Sherrier to support pupils in their learning and promote the Christian faith. A range of members of its current community contribute to reviews that ensure the vision meets the needs of pupils. The vision is expressed in the form of three areas of importance. These are creativity, compassion and community spirit. All three are lived out well by pupils and adults in the school. The vision clearly creates a sense of belonging. Parents rightly express the strength of the bond between homes and school. As an original member of the Embrace Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), Sherrier's vision is employed effectively to bring coherence amongst its member schools. MAT leaders and governors frequently evaluate the impact of the vision and celebrate how pupils flourish. Despite this, members of the community struggle to articulate the distinctiveness of the Christian vision which limits an understanding of its significance.

The impact of the vision on the school curriculum is regularly monitored and evaluated. Leaders at all levels correctly agree that it is highly effective in fulfilling the vision of the school. A wide range of subjects are carefully planned and linked with regular projects. These support pupils in reflecting on their learning. Opportunities for deep thinking enrich the knowledge gained and allow them to investigate and problem-solve with clarity and confidence. Staff understand their pupils well. This enables them to support those who are vulnerable or have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). They develop skills of enquiry and demonstrate resilience as learners. Specific programmes are successful in empowering those with language barriers to become confident. As a result of impactful discussions, spirituality is widely recognised and articulated by pupils and adults. Parents rightly acknowledge the effect of this work as pupils practice skills of reflection at home. Strong partnership links with the MAT provide training and collaboration for staff. This empowers them to provide high quality teaching and learning, enabling pupils to engage well and thrive in each subject.

A focus on compassion in the school vision creates a strong culture of care and support. Pupils demonstrate respect in their behaviour towards each other. They use values learnt such as forgiveness to resolve issues themselves. A focus on diversity explores important learning that strengthens cohesion amongst pupils. For example, a world book day theme based around teaching on equality and respect, strengthened an understanding of British values. The MAT is active in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of staff. This is reflected in approaches by other school leaders, including governors. This is particularly apparent during difficult and emotional events. Church leaders also take time to show nurture for members of the school community. This effective support empowers pupils to flourish as thoughtful and caring individuals.

Collective worship is closely linked to the vision of the school. Careful planning includes key values such as forgiveness and friendship. This enables pupils to appreciate the relevance of worship in building relationships with each other. Worship is inclusive and welcoming. Pupils show enthusiasm in singing. In promoting spiritual growth, prayer is used effectively. They take pride in writing prayers that they collect and share in classrooms. They explain how times of reflection during lessons can be used to pray, especially when focusing on global issues. This allows them to consider the relevance of worship during the day. The school has close links with the local church. Church and school leaders regularly plan together to ensure themes are consistent. They work to ensure the values of the church link well with the school. Training provided by the Diocese of Leicester supports new ideas to engage pupils and support staff in leading worship. The school arranges for opportunities to celebrate festivals at another local Methodist church. This means that pupils can appreciate variety in church worship. A weekly worship celebrates achievements that are linked to the school vision. Although there are times of reflection planned into worship, there are currently insufficient moments for pupils to respond to their experiences and Bible teaching. This restricts the depth of their spiritual growth.



Inspired by a vision of community spirit, pupils experience rich opportunities to make a difference locally. A project based on societies' needs at the time of the school's foundation sparks compassionate responses. Pupils reflect on challenging experiences such as an air ambulance arriving. This prompts discussions about the effects of giving to charity. Others create stories to read to the elderly in care homes. Such activities spark genuine responses to ethical choices. Staff raise awareness of injustice through the curriculum. Driven by the vision, teachers help pupils to believe they can change the world for the better. Learning about the lack of clean water in many countries motivates them to raise awareness and funds. A partnership with pupils in Nepal is established. It enables them to understand an imbalance of world resources. Projects generated by the MAT allow school council members to meet with others locally. A parliament group raises awareness of justice. A focus on equality, diversity and inclusion is centred around local issues. This dedication to looking outwards ensures pupils are socially engaged and keen to serve others.

A carefully constructed plan for RE ensures a broad knowledge of the subject is taught. Units of work are based on challenging questions that stimulates enquiry-based learning. This develops pupils as curious learners. Opportunities for pupils to explore a variety of faiths increases their religious literacy. They confidently compare and discuss their knowledge of key beliefs. Cross-curricular projects build links and supports philosophical thinking. For example, learning related to geography and history grows through a discussion about the goodness of God. A discussion about creation provides a focus on worldviews to widen an understanding of beliefs. Regular training supported by the diocese and MAT ensures staff are confident in delivering the curriculum. Careful monitoring and evaluation by governors identifies valuable areas for development. Whilst there is a strong focus on Christian teaching, there are limited occasions to understand Christianity as a global faith. A limited understanding of the lives of local members of different faiths also restricts a full appreciation of religious practice.

Information

Address	Bitteswell Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire. LE17 4EX		
Date	01/10/2024	URN	146611
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	408
Diocese	Leicester		
MAT/Federation	Embrace Multi-Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Lyndsey Beckett		
Chair of Trustees	Russell Andrews		
Inspector	Keith Farquhar		