

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Little Missenden Church of England VA Infant and Nursery School	
Address	Little Missenden, Amersham, HP7 0RA
School vision	
<p>'Rooted and grounded in love' Ephesians 3:17</p> <p>Our Christian faith emphasises the value and worth of everyone with their own distinctive character, abilities and needs. The belief that we should all respect and help each other, provides the foundation of our school and everything we aim to achieve. Our school vision is founded on Ephesians 3:17, seeking to support all within our school community; to take root and grow from the foundations of love in order to reach the fullness of their potential and living lives displaying the values of friendship, thankfulness, honesty, forgiveness, compassion and trust.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school lives out a strongly embedded Christian vision. This creates a nurturing and loving culture where children and adults grow. • Adults are inspired by the Christian vision to provide rich experiences for children. These enable them to thrive academically and spiritually. • Carefully planned collective worship fosters the spiritual development of children and adults. High quality reflective activities offer opportunities for stillness and prayer. • The wellbeing of children and adults is a priority for school leaders. Consequently, the vision provides a strong foundation for people to flourish. • Children benefit from well-planned religious education. (RE) They make progress and speak about their learning demonstrating respect and curiosity. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen children's awareness of non-religious worldviews. This will enrich their ability to form their own opinions or beliefs. • Extend opportunities for children to improve the lives of others. Consequently, they will broaden their understanding of injustice. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The school lives out a strongly embedded Christian vision. This is woven through all aspects of school life, fostering a culture of love and respect. The result is that children and adults feel supported to grow their confidence and abilities. Vision-inspired, compassionate relationships underpin daily routines, which enable all to feel happy and safe. Children behave well, demonstrating an understanding of others when learning together. They are proud to belong to the school and benefit from staff who know them well as individuals.</p> <p>Adults are committed to underpinning the curriculum with the Christian vision. This is expressed</p>	

through values, which are expertly woven through a variety of rich experiences. For example, making and delivering cakes to members of the village community. Teachers plan collaboratively. This enables them to carefully consider how to nurture children. Adults enhance the curriculum through local partnerships. There are rich opportunities to engage with activities such as local carnivals or garden festivals. Children also explore their neighboring natural environment through activities such as apple picking for juice making. This teaches them about the abundance of the created world and the importance of respecting it. Adults encourage children to live out the vision through the distribution of wildflower seeds. As a result, they can express that all people can be 'rooted and grounded in love.' Teachers are adept at providing times for stillness. Calming, reflective activities are woven through outdoor learning and yoga. These enable children to regulate their emotions and experience spiritual growth. Due to their robust monitoring, governors are able to support leaders. Their strategic decisions expertly consider the needs of the most vulnerable children. The opening of a nursery provides a foundation for the very young, who demonstrate confidence and curiosity.

Children engage in sensitively and thoughtfully planned collective worship. School staff are confident in their ability to lead worship as a result of training from the diocese. Consequently, they provide age-appropriate, high-quality reflective activities. These enable pupils to make deeper spiritual responses. Children are encouraged to notice the beauty of the world around them. As a result, they can express how certain sights or sounds make them feel. Collective worship enables those present to experience the Christian belief in the inclusive nature of God's love. Language is used carefully so that everyone feels comfortable attending. There is a strong partnership with the local church, and members of the local clergy regularly lead worship. This fosters a knowledge of the Bible and significant Christian festivals. The school contributes to the church's flower festival. This encourages families to experience spirituality as they appreciate the beauty of the displays. Worship leaders confidently speak of their role and how they assist the headteacher. Children are provided with opportunities to share their own prayers within class reflection areas. These spaces offer areas to reflect or be calm within the school day.

The Christian vision motivates the priority given to the wellbeing of all. This is clearly a strength of the school. Staff are mindful of the needs of all children and tailor activities to support those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. (SEND) Adults work tirelessly to provide families with access to the appropriate external agencies. In addition, leaders skillfully ensure nurture groups develop confidence ahead of the transition to junior school. The vision motivates all adults to foster resilience in children so that they can live life to the full. They model positive friendships. As a result of the compassionate culture, staff are cared for and developed professionally. Governors are mindful of their responsibilities, using the vision to shape policies and strategies. For example, their strategic decisions consider the workload of teachers in a small school. The newly formed partnership with another church school provides teachers with broader opportunities for networking and training.

The school lives out its Christian vision because it teaches children about making a difference to the lives of others. Meaningful links with local charities provide opportunities for children to initiate fund-raising activities. Members of the school council speak passionately about safeguarding wildlife and the natural world. Their effective campaigning is reducing the use of plastic across the school and with external agencies. The eco council successfully promotes composting, which deepens children's appreciation of the environment. There are limited opportunities for children to appreciate how they can fight for justice and improve the lives of others more widely. Despite this, where natural disasters prompt children to respond, teachers encourage children to take action. For example, raising money for an earthquake appeal.

The skilled leadership of RE ensures that children are experiencing meaningful and exciting learning opportunities. The broad curriculum is structured using high quality resources. In addition, teachers'



planning is enriched by activities from a variety of materials. Children benefit from practical learning. They speak enthusiastically about tasting apples and honey when learning about Rosh Hashanah. Where possible, teachers include visitors to share their religious beliefs and practices. Visits to the local church deepen children's understanding of baptism and symbols. Detailed class books capture children's learning, enabling teachers and leaders to measure the impact of the curriculum. Teachers feel confident in teaching RE due to the support they receive. Leaders benefit from strong links with diocesan advisors and attend training regularly. As a result of this, they are able to evaluate the curriculum for RE and consider how they wish to improve it. Children are taught about religious worldviews and demonstrate progress in their knowledge. However, there are limited opportunities to learn about non-religious views. Children readily share their learning about the life of Jesus and significant Jewish festivals. Skillful use of a specially designed resource introduces children to a variety of biblical stories. As a result, they can recount stories such as the parable of the ten lepers. Learning activities mainly focus on knowledge rather than challenging children to make deeper responses about their own views. Governors actively monitor the planning of RE and the progress of children. Consequently, they are able to support leaders and contribute to the quality of RE.

The inspection findings indicate that Little Missenden Infant and Nursery VA School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	24 April 2024	URN	110457
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	49
Diocese	Oxford		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Michelle Green		
Chair	Jane Elkins		
Inspector	Helen Crolla	No.	918