

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Dry Drayton Church of England Primary School

Vision

'I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.' Philippians 1:9. Our vision is to educate and inspire each child in our care, enabling them to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to make a positive difference in the world. Our small school, open to all, provides a safe, nurturing community built on the foundations of Christian values.

Dry Drayton CofE 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 vision, underpinned by Christian teachings, provides a clear purpose to the work of this Church school. The motto of "small school, big hearts, big ambitions" is lived out through the school's theologically rooted vision.
- The curriculum has been developed to match the needs of the school community. Pupils access rich opportunities through the 'big ambitions' of the school to learn about a diverse world. As a result, aspirations are raised, and pupils are well-prepared for their futures.
- Collective worship is a special time where the school community comes together. Prayer and moments of reflection deepen pupils' understanding of the vision through clearly expressed Bible stories and song. This deepens spiritual flourishing and enables pupils to go and live out these values throughout the day.
- Forming caring relationships between pupils, staff and parents is a high priority in school. As a result, pupils feel valued, enabling them to thrive and actively help each other and their wider community.
- Pupils enjoy religious education (RE). Leaders have developed a carefully considered RE curriculum. It equips pupils with an understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. This enables them to be respectful of difference and diversity.

Development Points

- Embed the shared language and understanding of spirituality in both collective worship and the curriculum. This is in order to enable pupils to understand and articulate their growing spiritual awareness.
- Enhance pupils' understanding of justice. This is in order to enable them to recognise how they can make a positive difference to the lives of others.



Inspection Findings

The deeply embedded and shared Christian vision at Dry Drayton enables members of the school community to flourish. Inspired by the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians, pupils and staff grow in knowledge and understanding together. The vision is brought to life through the motto: “small school, big hearts, big ambitions”. This emboldens leaders at all levels to shape a culture of love and high expectations. Leaders, including governors, promote the vision to create an ethos where everyone is cherished and supported for their own worth. They foster a sense of determination through times of challenge and difficulty. During these times, the community has united behind the school, making it a central part of village life. Governors and school leaders actively evaluate the vision’s implementation and its impact on pupils. Parents rightly appreciate the school’s strong focus on pastoral care and its family atmosphere. These strong partnerships help pupils to flourish.

A carefully considered curriculum reflects the six values that the school holds at its core. Through engagement, challenge and strong partnership working; pupils access sport, public speaking, and events focused on climate change. Coupled with focused days learning about countries and cultures, these broaden horizons and deepen pupils’ interest. The curriculum is adapted to pupils’ needs, with staff checking their understanding at every stage. This approach ensures that pupils, including those considered vulnerable, are supported to flourish. Parents speak highly of the school’s inclusive approach, noting their child might struggle in a larger setting. Strong relationships epitomise the collaboration between staff and parents of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This ensures the wellbeing and progress of each pupil remains central to school life. ‘Heart moments’ let pupils reflect and share how they have shown core values during the day. These are beginning to show how opportunities for spiritual development can be purposeful parts of the curriculum. In forest school, pupils feel calm and connected, taking peaceful moments in nature. However, they do not yet have a depth of understanding to recognise their own spirituality.

Collective worship at Dry Drayton is a special time each day when the school community comes together. Joyful songs, some incorporating the school vision, embed shared values into daily school life. Worship is invitational and inclusive, with signed prayers and liturgy. This deepens the sense of a shared moment for all who attend. The community, including governors and clergy, are regularly invited and speak fondly of this being a highlight of their week. Mutual sharing of values and liturgy between school and church enhances this special relationship. The four “hearts” shared language for spirituality supports dialogue between pupils and staff about their place in the world. Members of the clergy and staff bring Bible stories linked to the school values to life through drama and retelling. This fosters a deeper understanding of the Christian message. Worship is carefully planned by leaders to ensure it regularly revisits the school’s vision and values. As a result, it unites the school community. Celebrating pupils who live the vision enriches the school’s culture and community spirit deepens spiritual development. This affirms the school’s vision to live out an overflowing of love and care for each other.

The school’s vision to outwardly show love and care shapes a culture where everyone feels valued and respected. Leaders are resolute in ensuring that, even in a small school, staff workload is continuously monitored and adjusted. There is a shared understanding that when adults are supported, pupils also flourish. Pupils feel safe and cherished; they enjoy coming to school, and attendance is high. Pupils know that ‘there is always someone to go to’. This is a school where love and care for all is deeply rooted. Leaders work tirelessly and build strong relationships with families. This care extends beyond the school gate. ‘Feast Week’ unites school, church, and village in a shared fundraising celebration. Staff are highly committed to the school and appreciate how leaders



help them manage their workload. Opportunities for professional development and career progression are well embedded. As a result, staff flourish, knowing they have the support they need.

The vision motivates pupils to bring about change in their school and community. By outwardly and ambitiously demonstrating love and care, pupils are inspired to help others. They are beginning to make ethical choices and consider the impact of climate change. Pupils learn about stewardship through projects that reduce energy use and explore climate-affected countries. The overflowing of love for others in the school and local community is palpable. From supporting a local hospice to providing meals in the community, the school demonstrates care for all. Whilst pupils are aware of how they can address issues of injustice, this work is mainly supported by staff. Pupils' understanding of justice is currently limited, focusing mainly on environmental issues and charitable giving.

RE has a high profile within the curriculum. Leaders are well informed through close work with the diocese and have developed a carefully considered curriculum. It equips pupils with an understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to be respectful of difference and diversity. The RE leader has provided a strong lead in curriculum development and training colleagues. Special days focused on world faiths further enrich the curriculum's breadth and depth. Pupils recall with excitement a recent day focused on the Jewish festival of Shavuot. Faith leaders from a variety of traditions help pupils understand beliefs, practices, and lived experiences more deeply. By studying a range of worldviews, both religious and non-religious, pupils gain a well-rounded and respectful view of diverse beliefs. Floor books, which show whole class work, and other pupil books indicate how much pupils enjoy their RE.

Information

Address	Park Street, Dry Drayton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB23 8DA		
Date	24.6.25	URN	110787
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	68
Diocese	Diocese of Ely		
MAT/Federation	N/A		
Headteacher	Sonia Hegan		
Chair of Governors	Stephen Gardner		
Inspector	George Trafford		