Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Brington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Vision

'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.'
(Thessalonians 5:11)

Strengths

- The school's actions are rooted in the Christian vision. As a result, it enables an environment where both staff and pupils are empowered to flourish.
- Driven by a vision to ensure pupils experience a full life, an inspiring curriculum has been designed. It is supported effectively by forest school experiences. This ensures that pupils thrive as learners.
- The school is at the heart of its community. Pupils and staff are extremely supportive of one another and highly valued. The wellbeing of others is a priority for leaders.
- Shaped by the vision and values, collective worship is creatively planned and delivered. It offers meaningful moments of reflection and joyful singing which enriches spiritual development.
- Religious education (RE) is well led and resourced. An imaginative curriculum provides deep questions, creating opportunities for personal challenge.

Development Points

- Introduce robust systems of monitoring and evaluation for governors. This will enhance their understanding of the impact of the vision and shape future developments.
- Embed the school's shared understanding and language of spirituality. This is so that pupils and adults can readily articulate and share their experiences, therefore enriching spiritual flourishing for the whole community.

Inspection Findings

The well-established vision of Brington is central to its effectiveness as a Church school. The vision guides, motivates and inspires both pupils and adults. It really is a lived reality and its shared purpose is one of mutual support. Brington is a small, welcoming school which is full of joy and flourishing. Staff, pupils, parents and carers hold deep affection for the school and share uplifting stories of belonging. The recently established link with a school in Thessaloniki has helped to give even more purpose to the vision. Pupils now have a real understanding of the roots of their vision. Permeating school life are the core values of service, courage, forgiveness and love. These values are lived out in school and support pupils and adults to 'build each other up'. Leaders effectively promote these values through both celebrating pupils living them out and by sharing lived examples in the weekly 'Friday Flyer' letter. The four values are each linked to one of the four apostles and these are the teams that pupils are placed in when starting at the school. This helps pupils to have a sense of belonging. Leaders have recently evaluated the vision and values, challenging their ongoing relevance. Governors are eager to support the school in its work as a Church school. They are active visitors, engaging with pupils and staff. However, many governors are relatively new to their roles. They have a limited understanding of how to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Brington as a Church school.

The school's vision and values have recently been further embedded by effectively threading them through the curriculum. This provides rich and creative experiences and promotes a sense of awe and wonder. Pupils regularly learn outdoors and undertake forest school activities. This enhances their appreciation of nature. Real-life experiences are planned for, as leaders know this gives pupils confidence and 'builds them up'. Farming is one topic covered and a local farmer donated two pigs to the school. Caring for these two pigs is a responsibility taken very seriously by pupils, who speak with joy about their learning experiences. Talents of the local community are used to help bring learning to life. For example, a local surgeon visited and talked to pupils about how to carry out operations. A local carpenter worked with children to build a Viking longhouse. Learning is rich, purposeful and highly relevant to pupils' lives. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are fully included and have clear, structured help to achieve well and flourish. They have a true sense of self-worth. The impact of this can be seen in the happy, confident pupils transitioning well into secondary school and between year groups.

The school's Christian vision is at the heart of collective worship. This is recognised by staff and pupils as a special time when the whole school comes together. Different themes and values are explored and there is the opportunity for personal reflection. Leaders ensure that the themes are pertinent to the school community and encompass the school's vision and associated values. The school prayer, inspired by the vision, is shared at the end of worship. This sends pupil and adults out with the vision at the forefront of their minds. Celebration worship is a highlight of the week and pupils enjoy sharing each other's successes inside and outside school. Parents appreciate being part of such uplifting worship. Singing is loved by many and brings a real sense of joy. The newly appointed clergy and chaplain have already helped to 'build the school community up'. 'Woodland Worship' takes place on a Saturday morning every half term in the forest. It is enthusiastically led by the local clergy. This brings the community together to enjoy the beauty of nature, awe and wonder moments, songs and prayer. This enhances the spirituality of pupils and adults. The school has worked closely with the local diocese to develop its approaches and understanding of the role of spirituality in school life. This work is at an early stage, therefore the language used by pupils and adults to articulate these moments is inconsistent.

Exceptionally caring relationships, inspired by the vision are central to life at Brington. This is because pupils, staff and parents 'build each other up'. Parents and carers speak passionately about staff supporting them as well as their children. Relationships are firmly rooted in Christian love and are a real strength of this harmonious school. Leaders nurture others in school, ensuring they are treated well. This results in a staff team who support

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each other compassionately. Adults are encouraged to flourish both professionally and personally. Moving around school there is a quiet, caring atmosphere where acts of kindness are normal. The vision is clearly reflected in how this community helps to 'build each other up'. Pupils know their opinions are important in bringing about change in this school and are empowered to really make a difference to others. For example, they organise lunchtime clubs for others, such craft and loom band clubs during playtime. Pupils speak knowledgably about the vision and are encouraged to have a positive impact on others.

There are numerous opportunities for pupils to use their talents and take responsibility in school. They speak enthusiastically about their roles, and can identify where they have had an impact. For example, pupils are keen to improve the school grounds and organise litter picks on the school grounds when necessary. Pupils choose charities that they want to support through fundraising activities. There is some limited understanding of how they can challenge injustice and make a difference beyond their immediate community.

RE is an enjoyable and inspiring subject at the heart of the curriculum. It has a positive impact on life at school. Learning in RE helps pupils to think more deeply about big questions. Subject leadership is strong and staff have been well-supported by the diocese to introduce a new syllabus. It is focused on meeting the needs of pupils as they progress through school. Planning makes provision for both the acquisition of knowledge and the development of essential skills. Lessons are varied and creative. Staff teach RE with confidence, enthusiasm and good subject-knowledge. Pupils are encouraged to reflect and think deeply about their own beliefs and those of others. Enrichment days are highly valued and supplement the core RE curriculum.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Church Lane, Brington, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. PE28 5AE		
Date	10 October 2024	URN	110827
Type of school	Maintained Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	91
Diocese/District	Ely		
MAT/Federation	No		
Acting Head of School	Kirsty Baish		
Acting Executive Headteacher	Mark Farrell		
Chair of Governors	Laura Tate		
Inspector	Jane Davis		

