



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Ditchingham Church of England Primary School	
Address	Rider Haggard Way, Ditchingham, Bungay, NR35 2RE
School vision	
<p>We are all children of God, each with our own unique gifts and potential. We provide an environment rooted in reflect and Christian values, where every individual can flourish.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Let your light shine. Matthew 5:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friendship, creativity, respect.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is deeply embedded and underpins all of the work of the school. It is well established and provides guidance for everyone. • Inspirational leaders create a strong learning community where all are enabled to shine. As a result, individual talents are celebrated so that pupils succeed and flourish. • Collective worship is well planned, engaging and thoughtful. It is effectively supported through excellent relationships with the local benefice and successfully provides opportunities for spiritual development. • Respect for others and friendship are features of this school that is deeply rooted in it's community. Each child and family is fully understood, with a focus on meeting individual needs. • Religious education (RE) is very carefully planned and well led. The curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to enjoy thoughtful discussion and deepen their understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend spiritual development opportunities within the school by extending and enhancing rich experiences across the curriculum. This is to ensure all can flourish. • Further empower pupils to identify and engage in social actions. This is to enable them to make a positive difference both locally and globally. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Ditchingham Church of England Primary School's well-established Christian vision, guides its strategic direction. It is a member of the Diocese of Norwich Education Academy Trust (DNEAT) and Kingfisher partnership, which recently expanded to three schools. The leadership and staff wholeheartedly supports and promotes the need to 'let your light shine'. They labour to provide an environment where every individual can achieve their best. The vision is integral to the daily life and work of the school. It is meaningful, relevant and understood by all. Pupils are equipped to become caring citizens. They are expected to work to fulfil their potential, making the most of their God-given gifts. This means they are confident, curious and enjoy their learning. Leaders provide clear and considered direction, guided by the vision. Awareness of the isolation of this rural, village</p>	



school has an impact on decision making and the opportunities offered. Well considered choices, such as enlarging the Kingfisher partnership, are informed by the vision and supported by the local governing board. Close bonds with the federation schools, DNEAT and diocese provide professional development opportunities, joint subject leadership and efficient resourcing. This supports all staff, therefore enhancing wellbeing. Consequently, all relationships throughout the school are positive and respectful.

Learning is strengthened by carefully planned learning experiences. A well designed RE scheme effectively provides opportunities to broaden pupils' cultural awareness and encourage curiosity. Adults compassionately support all of the school, accepting needs and difference. Pupils are proud of their work, respond positively and flourish in their learning. Staff encourage them to be inquisitive about the wider world and take their place as global citizens. Vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are successfully supported to achieve their best. There is opportunity during the school day for individuals to pause and think. Staff make time for reflection. Subject leaders have begun to define spirituality in their curriculum areas, and to plan specific opportunities for it.

Collective worship is thoughtfully planned and all are respectful. The elected, enthusiastic 'Shine group' have clear leading roles. All pupils are involved and interested in the content. Worship is engaging and underpinned by the school's specially selected values. In particular, there is a strong focus on friendship, respect and creativity. Partnerships are strong. The local benefice regularly leads worship, and this is carefully coordinated by the church pastoral worker to ensure coherence. There is a clear structure which helps ensure worship is a recognisable activity. Pupils lead gathering and sending, using Christian symbolism of a bible, candle and cross which creates a special atmosphere. The routine of classroom worship replicates the worshipful structure and ensures it is respected wherever it takes place. Opportunities for prayerful response and guided reflection are part of every gathering. All are positively involved, enjoy and value this integral part of the school day. Collective worship offers an opportunity for everyone to pray, contemplate and reflect. The distance from the church is no barrier to seasonal church celebrations, which enables pupils to feel part of the wider Christian community. Parents rightly say they value these links and appreciate the cohesive impact they have on the locality. Worship is inclusive, with staff lovingly supporting those with SEND in taking part, enabling all pupils and adults to flourish. To ensure everyone fully accesses spiritual growth, leaders and staff have a shared understanding of what spirituality is.

Relationships in the school are good because, in line with their vision, all are valued as unique children of God. Wellbeing is a high priority, allowing everyone to flourish. Pupils correctly appreciate the respectful, calm atmosphere provided, and understand the positive behaviour policy. As a result, they behave well and are able to work in a focussed learning environment. Parents and families are rightly supportive of the work of the school, especially what is done to create and strengthen friendships. Care for individual needs is much valued and it is appreciated that staff 'go the extra mile'. Attendance is high with effective strategies in place to support families. This ensures pupils are successful in their learning. Staff promote good mental health, and support in a way that is relevant to unique needs.

Leaders support staff professionally and personally, offering development opportunities to progress. This means the whole school feels valued, respected and treated well. The positive behaviour policy is built on the school values, especially respect, and emphasises consistency. The community are caring with older members nurturing and encouraging the younger ones. Effective transition arrangements mean newcomers are quickly welcomed and become confidently integrated. Pupils know how to reconcile after disagreements, and that bullying in all forms is unacceptable. Acts of generosity are evident in fundraising efforts, including enthusiastic support for national and local

good causes. Membership of the diocesan racial justice network enables the school to plan meaningful curriculum opportunities. This ensures pupils gain an understanding of inequality. Currently pupils do not fully understand how they can be agents of change, both in their own communities and the world.

RE is very carefully planned. It is engaging and balances the teaching of Christianity with world faiths. The scheme is enquiry based, encourages curiosity and demands a range of responses. This means all pupils can progress and succeed. Leaders benefit from the support of the diocese, who provide guidance on improvements to the quality of RE. The school has recently been accredited with a quality assurance mark. Leaders facilitate staff development to ensure effective practice is widely shared. It is regularly monitored through drop ins, discussion and work scrutiny. Individual and floor RE books demonstrate thoughtfulness and achievement. Careful assessment and feedback mean pupils understand their learning. This motivates them to make progress. They are proud of their work; consider RE an important subject and say it has an impact on their thinking. The curriculum enriches pupils' appreciation of religious diversity and worldviews.

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

Information			
Inspection date	16 November 2023	URN	140545
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	72
Diocese	Norwich		
MAT/Federation	DNEAT		
Executive Headteacher	Heather Brand		
Chair	Caroline Hutton		
Inspector	Lynne Golding	No.	2124