

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hempsted Church of England Primary School

Vision

Growing Together in God's Love

We will aspire to achieve our unique God-given potential by 'living life to the full' (John 10:10).

We will share an inspiring education underpinned by the strong Christian values of our community.

'I can do all things through God who strengthens me.' (Philippians 4:13)

Hempsted Church of England 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.

Notable Strengths

- Partnerships between school, church and the wider community are highly effective. As a result, compassionate actions support families to live life to the full. Respect and trust are built through the love shown in these relationships.
- Pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) thrive because leaders focus their decisions on providing successful inclusion and wellbeing strategies. There is a shared culture of wanting achievement for all.
- Leaders ensure many enriching extra-curricular activities are provided across the school. As a result, pupils' engagement is high. They appreciate what the school is doing to give them opportunities for life.
- Christian values are explored creatively in collective worship and expressed well in discussions in class. They help adults and pupils consider how they can look outwards to support others.

Development Points

- Improve the current understanding of the Christian distinctiveness of the school's vision. This is to deepen its roots in biblical teaching in order to help the school community know why they aim to live life to the full.
- Clarify and extend opportunities for spiritual development through the curriculum. This is to enhance pupils and adult's understanding of spirituality so that it helps them make sense of the relevance of life, learning and relationships.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The school strives to enrich the lives of pupils and adults. The vision, at surface level, creates a shared ambition to build a firm foundation on which this hope is fulfilled. However, the school's ethos is not fully explored in a profoundly Christian way. There is a legacy of Christian understanding which sustains the school. This is being developed by new leadership. Leaders know the context of their school very well and use this to bring about a determination that all may achieve. They recognise how this will be unique for everyone. As a result of the vision, opportunities are given to support personal growth and the development of life skills. Staff willingly provide a myriad of extra-curricular activities, such as knitting, gardening and cross-country. These are taken up eagerly by many pupils, including those who have SEND. Deliberate choices are made by leaders to ensure any costs are not a barrier to participation. Parents appreciate this approach, as it allows all pupils to 'shine in their own ways.' Monitoring and evaluation of the vision is often limited to how well pupils and adults experience this enriched provision. There is a verse from the Bible (Philippians 4:13) attached to the vision. However, it is not used or referenced by adults or pupils. This means there is not a shared Christian view of what it is that deeply inspires living life to the full.

Vision and Curriculum

Because school leaders want everyone to reach their potential, they have ensured a broad curricular offer. The vision is reflected in the desire to widen pupils' horizons and remove any barriers to ambition. Pupils enjoy what they learn and consequently, do well. Successful strategies are made so that pupils who have SEND are sensitively included. There is a school-wide awareness of how to develop spirituality through each subject. For example, in geography, pupils encounter spirituality through the wonder of creation. This extends to their role in making the planet more peaceful, sustainable and fairer. However, it is not clear how pupils will reach this outcome. Leaders' monitoring does not rigorously capture the success of this. There is an agreed written definition of spirituality, but its understanding is not fully shared. Language used by pupils and adults is often limited to the 'ows', 'wows' and 'nows' of the school's approach. Despite this, pupils find experiences such as sitting around a campfire or time in the secret garden hugely satisfying. These moments through the year are treasured.

Religious Education

Pupils talk with some confidence about what they learn in religious education (RE). They recognise it helps them grow better together and consequently demonstrate they are prepared for living in a diverse community. Governors rightly identify how RE is 'rooted in the reality of the world' so that pupils' learning is outward-looking. Teaching in Christianity, for example, includes discovering the similarities and differences in church buildings from around the world. New leadership is actively raising the profile of RE through the school. Following recent advice and training, there is a renewed commitment from leaders and staff to improve the teaching of RE. As a result, pupils appreciate changes in assessing knowledge, preferring instant recall opportunities which 'blend in' with lessons.

Worship and Spirituality

Pupils and adults enjoy coming together each day for collective worship. Different places, content and leaders increase engagement. Pupils from the over-subscribed worship club eagerly participate. Recent monitoring showed that some pupils did not know when worship was taking place. This led to the introduction of a shared use of language which now ripples through all worship, actively uniting this special time with its community. Selected values, at the heart of this compassionate school, are explored with practical examples and celebrated during worship. Special commendations are made to those pupils who behave in ways which demonstrate the value of the term. This supports how pupils relate their actions towards others on a more spiritual level. Some pupils are able to explain how worship reminds them that even if God can't be seen, 'He is always in our hearts.'



Adults find the daily space for worship, 'a time to breathe' and which connects them spiritually with a moment of peace.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Many pupils refer to the school's vision as a reason to look outwards and demonstrate responsibility as global citizens. They recognise that in helping others, people who haven't had a chance to live a full and enriched life can be given opportunities. The school council votes on charities to help during each year. Some pupils understand that this is not about receiving thanks, but 'knowing that someone else will smile.' This selflessness is shared by others who actively remind their peers of the needs of others. The school shares the net zero pledge made by the Diocese of Gloucester. This has transformed the actions of pupils and adults in school to tread more lightly on the earth. Older pupils, for example, write informed letters to people in authority to outline their concerns about ecological issues.

Vision and School Culture

'Growing together in God's love' is central to how the school community provides a safe, nurturing space where all are welcome. Leaders use the vision to demonstrate their commitment to inclusion. Increasing numbers of children who have SEND come here, some of them from settings where it was a challenge to remain. Leaders strive to get the right advice and financial support to help pupils thrive. Some do so knowing that they 'live in God's love to fight on the parents' behalf.' However, this deep connection to the vision is inconsistent. Relationships are highly effective and empower families to help themselves seek fullness of life. Informal 'coffee and chat' events bring pastoral leads from the school and church together with local families. As a result, those in immediate need are supported rapidly. Pupils and adults are committed to show love in action so that the wider community experiences a life full of opportunity.

Information

Address	St Swithuns Rd, Hempsted, Gloucester GL2 5LH		
Date	30 September 2025	URN	115608
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	214
Diocese	Gloucester		
Headteacher	Jon Davis		
Chair of Governors	Ben Nash		
Inspector	Robert Hollis		