

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Highfield Church of England Primary School

Vision

We aim to build individuals who will thrive and flourish and recognise the relevance of our Christian core values in their everyday lives.

We pray that our children will live and learn with the courage to always do what is right. They will seek to bring peace to every situation and respect and value others and celebrate the rich diversity in our community.

We believe our values will enable children to spread their wings and bring the transforming power of Christian values to the world around them, in their own unique way.

Highfield 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

- Deeply committed leaders and staff ensure the Christian vision and values provide a strong foundation for this thriving school. Pupils and adults flourish as a result.
- It is a calm and joyful school which is focused on the community it serves. Christian love and kindness are at the heart of relationships. Consequently, pupils and adults feel truly welcomed and valued as individuals.
- Collective worship is inclusive and inspires participants to reflect upon the difference they can make to the lives of others. The strong relationship with the parish church enhances pupils and adults' spiritual growth.
- The school's curriculum and wide-ranging enrichment programme nurtures pupils' individual talents and enables them to succeed. Those who are deemed most vulnerable or disadvantaged blossom because they are included and supported well.
- Pupils enjoy religious education (RE) and demonstrate an impressive level of engagement within lessons. A high degree of challenge is offered through a carefully designed and well-resourced curriculum.

Development Points

- Evolve the school's approach to spirituality throughout the curriculum for the younger pupils. This is so they gain an age-appropriate understanding of spirituality.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The school's Christian vision is clearly expressed and deeply embedded in daily life. It shapes decision making, relationships and the overall ethos of the community. Leaders and governors articulate and respectfully model this vision. This ensures it remains the guiding force behind actions and strategic priorities. Strong partnerships with the local church, diocese and wider community enrich the school's work. Consequently, there is a deep sense of belonging among pupils and adults. Governors know the school well and provide effective support and challenge. They maintain a clear understanding of strengths in practice and areas for further development. Leaders demonstrate courage and compassion. They make thoughtful decisions so that pupils, regardless of background or need, are included, valued and flourish. This is exemplified through a focus on embracing families from all countries into the school community. Events such as an annual international fair inspire the school community to peacefully grow together.

Vision and Curriculum

Leaders ensure that the Christian vision is the foundation of the school's ambitious and inclusive curriculum. Rooted in the belief that every child should thrive and flourish, the curriculum is designed to nurture pupils academically, spiritually and personally. Christian values are intentionally woven through learning, enabling pupils to understand and demonstrate courage, respect and peace. Teachers craft lessons that are creative, purposeful and responsive to pupils' diverse needs. Through thoughtful adaptations and skilled support, pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those who are deemed vulnerable, participate fully in rich learning experiences. The curriculum broadens pupils' horizons through meaningful themes, diverse texts, and visits. This helps to cultivate curiosity and deepen understanding of the wider world. Extra-curricular activities support pupils to explore their own talents. Clubs such as orchestra, sports and dance enable pupils to proudly represent the school within the wider community. Opportunities for spiritual development are increasingly being thoughtfully planned, encouraging pupils to reflect, question and grow. However, this is not yet embedded throughout the curriculum for the younger pupils.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is central to the school's Christian vision, offering an inclusive daily space for reflection, prayer and shared belonging. Consequently, it supports pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. Worship follows a consistent pattern which encourages the school community to engage thoughtfully with biblical teachings and the school's values. Strong partnerships with the local church enrich the programme, with clergy supporting pupils' understanding and spiritual flourishing. Pupils increasingly take ownership of worship, planning and leading elements that deepen their confidence and spiritual awareness. As a result, pupils describe worship as a time that brings the school community together and helps them make wise, compassionate choices. This includes the younger pupils who confidently articulate the importance of unwrappable gifts such as kindness, forgiveness and time. Adults also value worship as an important moment of pause, renewal and shared purpose within the life of the school.

Vision and School Culture

Leaders, including governors, articulate a clear and deeply rooted Christian vision that shapes an exceptionally warm and nurturing school culture. This vision is lived out daily in the positive relationships that flourish among pupils, staff and families. As a result, attendance is high and pupils feel happy and safe. Staff feel valued and supported, benefitting from thoughtful wellbeing practices and professional development which enables them to thrive. As a result, they work collaboratively, modelling the relevance of the school's vision in everyday life. Pupils understand the school's values and use them confidently to guide their behaviour. This helps them to build strong friendships and resolve difficulties peacefully. Tailored support, including effective partnerships with external agencies, ensures pupils feel known, loved and able to succeed. Parents rightly appreciate the school's



open communication, consistent care and informative workshops. This culture of belonging and compassion creates a community where individuals are encouraged to grow and spread their wings.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The school's Christian vision fosters a community where justice and responsibility shape daily life. Pupils recognise their responsibility to treat others with respect and kindness. Through the school value of peace, pupils develop an understanding of the concepts of forgiveness and grace. Leadership positions such as school councillors, eco leaders and wellbeing ambassadors enable pupils to act as role models. Initiatives such as buddy benches and more active playtimes have been instigated by the pupils. These help to nurture a strong sense of service. In the curriculum, pupils explore themes of justice including environmental stewardship and global inequality developing an informed moral awareness. Opportunities such as charitable fundraising and participation in local initiatives help pupils see how they can contribute positively beyond the school. Safe spaces for discussion, including in RE and worship, allow pupils to grapple with complex issues. This strengthens their empathy and understanding.

Religious Education

RE is a well-established strength of the school. This reflects the high priority leaders place upon its contribution to the Christian vision. Expert and proactive leadership ensures that it is strategically planned, coherently sequenced and well resourced. This enables pupils to build securely on prior learning. Governors monitor RE effectively, working closely with leaders to ensure the curriculum remains ambitious and responsive to pupils' needs. Teachers benefit from regular professional development and diocesan support, which deepens their subject knowledge and confidence. The school takes a leading role in supporting the development of RE across the Aspire school partnership including for non-faith schools. Visits to places of worship, and families sharing their faith customs, support pupils to appreciate the lived experience of religion. This helps to foster a sense of peace within a diverse school community.

Teaching is consistently strong. As a result, pupils enjoy lessons that are creative, engaging and carefully structured to promote enquiry, reflection and analysis. They develop a strong understanding of Christianity alongside a range of world religions and worldviews. Pupils speak positively about discussing challenging questions of meaning and purpose within a safe and respectful environment. Assessment is used effectively to identify gaps in the pupils' learning which are then revisited in future lessons. Overall, RE makes a significant contribution to pupils' personal development. It helps to nurture respect, curiosity and a deepening understanding of the world around them.

Information

Address	Hawthorn Road, Southampton, SO17 1PX		
Date	17 March 2026	URN	116395
Type of school	Voluntary aided	No. of pupils	316
Diocese	Winchester		
Headteacher	Rosie Walford		
Chair of Governors	Alan Hunt		
Inspector	Nigel Helm		