

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Catsfield Church of England Primary School

Vision

Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour

2 Timothy 1:6: Stir up the gifts that are within you!

We aspire to open up horizons of hope and aspiration and guide all members of our school community into fulfilling them through nurturing their God-given potential. We live out our vision through the Christian values of compassion, respect, wisdom, perseverance, community and friendship.

Catsfield 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

- Leaders have embedded a biblically rooted Christian vision that richly shapes the ethos and culture of the school. It provides a strong foundation for decision-making and inspires pupils and adults to flourish.
- The Christian vision is powerfully lived out through positive relationships, where humility, compassion and mutual respect shape daily interactions.
- An engaging, effective and vision driven curriculum nurtures the spirit and grows the mind. Purposeful learning experiences consistently inspire pupils to reflect, enabling them to make meaningful connections between their learning, values and everyday lives.
- The call to love your neighbour is deeply embedded, shaping a culture of justice, responsibility and service. Pupils demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting one another and contributing positively to their community.
- Collective worship is a compelling expression of the school's Christian vision and lies at the heart of its spiritual life. It deepens understanding of the vision and strengthens the shared commitment to living it out.

Development Points

- Establish a rigorous and focused approach to governors' monitoring and evaluation of the school's Christian vision. This is to inform strategic decision-making, enable effective challenge and support continued development as a Church school.
- Strengthen the religious education (RE) curriculum by extending pupils' learning about Christianity as a diverse global faith. This is to enable pupils to appreciate the richness and variety of Christian expression across cultures, traditions and communities.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

At the heart of this welcoming Church school is a commitment to helping pupils and adults flourish through God's love. Rooted in Christian principles, the vision provides a secure biblical foundation for the school's purpose. Developed collaboratively, it is clearly understood by pupils and adults. The vision shapes relationships and decision-making across the school community. Leaders create opportunities to embody the vision through daily practices and focused values days. These enable pupils to explore community, empathy, wise choices and responsibility for creation. As a result, pupils deepen their understanding of Christian values and consider how they can apply them in their daily lives. The vision is embedded across school life and influences the experiences of pupils and adults. However, governors do not consistently evaluate its impact. This limits their ability to provide strategic challenge and strengthen effectiveness as a Church school.

Vision and Curriculum

Leaders' curriculum decisions are rooted in nurturing pupils' God-given gifts and helping them flourish as unique individuals. Its careful design and sequencing help pupils recognise their potential and pursue their interests. This is achieved through rich opportunities, considerately chosen texts, diverse content and engagement with visitors. A secure, shared understanding of spirituality underpins these experiences and is understood consistently across the school. Forest school, the garden area, reflection spaces and enrichment activities encourage questioning and discovery. As a result, pupils develop a deeper understanding of themselves, others and the world around them. They appreciate the beauty, complexity and mystery of creation and make meaningful connections between their learning and personal contexts. One pupil explained, 'We know that the Holy Spirit is like electricity. We can't see it, but we know that it is there because it gives us power and energy.' This illustrates pupils' ability to use familiar ideas to understand abstract concepts and express their thinking clearly. These experiences strengthen pupils' independence and resilience.

Worship and Spirituality

Rooted in Anglican tradition, worship is a compelling expression of the school's Christian vision and values. It lies at the heart of the school's spiritual life, deepening understanding of the vision and shared commitment. Worship is planned intentionally so that pupils and adults can encounter the Christian story together. This fosters joint reflection, belonging and spiritual growth. A welcoming atmosphere, singing, candle lighting, stillness and prayer encourage participation and nurture the spirit. Mixed-age talk circles enable pupils and adults to explore themes together. They share insights and grow the mind through respectful dialogue. Staff and pupils value the stillness and peace that worship brings. Pupils further develop their reflections through the collective worship journal. They respond thoughtfully to questions such as 'What do I need for the journey ahead?' Their thoughts demonstrate growing spiritual maturity and the application of Christian values in daily life. The firm partnership with the local church enriches worship and broadens pupils' understanding of Christianity as a lived faith. Church leaders contribute regularly to worship and support the school's spiritual development. Collaboration with the diocese provides feedback and training that further enhances the quality and impact of collective worship.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum is effective and reflects the importance of the subject within the life of a Church school. Leaders prioritise RE through dedicated time, careful planning, appropriate resources and staff development. The curriculum is sequenced to enable pupils to build knowledge and deepen understanding progressively. Pupils recognise the value of RE and explain how it develops empathy for different cultures, beliefs and ways of life. They explore important questions, including 'What would Jesus do?' and consider how Christian teachings shape choices and actions. Pupils connect learning to their own lives through ideas such as kindness, karma and thoughtful decision-making. One pupil explained, 'RE gets your brain thinking about our purpose in life.' However, pupils' appreciation of Christianity as a diverse global faith is less developed. This is because they have



limited opportunities to explore the richness of Christian representation across different cultures, traditions and communities. Consequently, pupils' understanding of Christianity lacks the breadth needed to appreciate its diverse global expression.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The Christian vision of stir up the gifts that are within you drives a culture of purposeful contribution. Worship, reflection and the curriculum deepen understanding of living justly and cherishing individuals. Confident discussion of discrimination and unfairness draws on learning about civil rights, immigration and other topics. This deepens empathy, challenges prejudice and inspires choices that promote positive change. The school's Christian vision is not only evident in pupils' lives today but has shaped its identity across generations. The 180th birthday project highlighted the enduring importance of justice, service and responsibility within the school community. Exploring how past peers responded to local and national challenges showed this legacy in action. Consequently, serving others is understood not simply as current actions but as an enduring characteristic of the school's life. Year 6 buddies work alongside Reception pupils through regular activities and companionship. This develops compassion and initiative while ensuring younger pupils feel welcomed and included. Pupils of all ages support local events and raise funds for those experiencing homelessness. The school council provides opportunities for leadership, while charity partnerships help pupils recognise the difference collective action can make.

Vision and School Culture

The Christian vision of love your neighbour shapes a compassionate and inclusive community. Staff know pupils exceptionally well, recognising individual strengths and adapting provision to nurture potential. This enables pupils, including those who find learning challenging, to believe in themselves and develop their God-given gifts. Personalised pastoral support, including the 'This is Me' books and highly valued reflection spaces, strengthens wellbeing and spiritual growth. Strong partnerships with families enrich pupils' development through shared responsibility. For example, adults across the school community develop the forest learning area and share their careers through aspirations morning. This broadens pupils' horizons and raises aspirations. Leaders prioritise staff wellbeing and professional development, enabling compassionate, reflective and innovative practice. As a result, pupils develop confidence, resilience and aspiration because they know their unique gifts are recognised and celebrated. Similarly, adults flourish within a supportive community where faith, care and high expectations shape daily life.

Information

Address	Church Road, Catsfield, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 9DP		
Date	09 July 2026	URN	114494
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	107
Diocese	Chichester		
Acting Headteacher	Lex Beckett		
Chair of Governors	Charlotte Buckland		
Inspector	Pamela Gough		