

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, Northwood	
Address	Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, HA6 2RH
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Good
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p>Living and learning together as part of the family of God; we seek to inspire every person to be deeply rooted in the values of the Christian faith and to experience being connected in a loving community - to grow, flourish and bear much fruit.</p> <p>'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit' John 15:5</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is firmly embedded and permeates all aspects of school life, but systems to evaluate its effectiveness are not in place. • Associated values, such as compassion and koinonia, support the realisation of the vision. • Strong partnerships have a positive impact on the school. These include with the church, Diocese of London, local schools and an international link in Malawi. • The curriculum nurtures pupils' talents and aspirations. However, opportunities for spiritual development are not identified or planned. • Collective worship is exemplary and has a transformational impact on both adults and pupils at the school. It is a clear expression of the school's Christian vision. • Religious education (RE) teaching is effective and supports the vision. The new assessment system is not yet embedded to enable progress to be robustly evaluated.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a more systematic and rigorous process for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the school's Christian vision. This is to enable a more coherent approach to Church school improvement. • Develop a whole school understanding of spirituality in order to facilitate spiritual growth within and beyond the curriculum. • Refine assessment systems so that progress and attainment in RE can be more accurately measured.



Inspection findings

Dignity and respect are hallmarks of Holy Trinity's vision, where adults and pupils are supported to flourish and grow. Key Christian values, such as perseverance, forgiveness and wisdom work in tandem with the school's deeply embedded Christian vision. The school's chosen theological narrative within John 15 reflects the importance of nurture and care for each individual in providing firm roots for growth. The school thrives through mutually beneficial partnerships across the community and beyond. As a result, both pupils and adults flourish because positive relationships are lived out through the day to day life of the school.

The vision is at the heart of strategic decisions. It is evident in policies and informs school improvement plans, which in turn are seen in practice. Governors emphasise the caring, family ethos that this creates. However, they are less specific when expressing the impact of the school's Christian vision. There is no structured system in place for monitoring and evaluating the vision. The school engages well with the diocese. Both staff and governors have benefited from diocesan support and training. This has enabled the school to keep informed of current thinking and developments in Church school education.

In line with the Christian vision, the school provides a breadth of curriculum opportunities and a rich range of learning resources. Many extra-curricular activities such as chess, sports and choir enhance the provision for all pupils, including the more able. The school is proactive in establishing positive links with other local schools. These provide beneficial support for the curriculum and staff development. Personal and social education form part of the curriculum, but opportunities for spiritual development are not identified in subject planning.

Sensitive support is generously provided to all children and families, especially those who are more vulnerable. All adults flourish because of the aspirational culture at Holy Trinity. Staff receive effective professional and personal support from school leadership. They recognise this as an illustration of the school's vision. There are many examples of how staff have been encouraged to grow and flourish. A former pupil is now a teacher, whilst a teaching assistant was encouraged to train to teach.

Charity work and support for the community are frequently suggested by pupils who are strong advocates for change. For instance, the Eco Ambassadors speak to the school about environmental issues such as the dangers of plastic in the ocean. A collection of crisp packets, organised by pupils, made blankets for the homeless. The school supports a number of local charities and causes, including the Watford New Hope Trust and Harefield hospital. Holy Trinity has a long-standing, beneficial link with a school in Malawi. This has a positive impact in preparing pupils to be global citizens and to learn about a different culture.


A graduated approach to behaviour management is rooted in the vision to enable pupils to flourish and bear fruit. This results in pupils' behaviour that is good because everyone is treated as unique with individual needs. Inspired by the vision, there is a focus on highly effective pastoral care and good mental health. The school's vision results in pupils' behaviour that is good because everyone is treated as unique with individual needs. Pupils appreciate the positive rewards systems afforded by the Star Learners awards and Trinity Awards.

Collective worship at Holy Trinity is exceptional. It is joyful, invitational, inspiring and a tangible expression of the school's vision. All members of the school community speak of the very positive impact collective worship has on their lives. The close partnership with the local church enhances worship provision. The clergy are frequent visitors to the school and offer exceptional support, both with planning and leading worship. Pupils and staff visit the church regularly to take part in the Eucharist. Creative approaches to worship are well

established, for example Godly play, which pupils find stimulating and thought-provoking. Prayer Spaces, sometimes shared with other schools, offer excellent opportunities to reflect in tranquil settings. This means that pupils across the school articulate the importance of prayer and reflection. Ignite Club, an after school activity organised by the clergy, enables pupils to think reflectively. Pupils are then able to plan and lead acts of worship in innovative and inspiring ways. This adds to the strength and effectiveness of collective worship. RE ambassadors make an excellent contribution to worship. They meet with the collective worship leaders to assist with the planning and evaluation of worship. Reflection spaces around the school are well used and valued. They enable pupils to express their feelings and reflect on their emotions in a safe, familiar environment. Stillness, music and uplifting singing inspires the whole community. Weekly celebration worship plays an important part in bringing the school community together. Pupils are excited about how the worship recognises their good work and how they uphold the values of the school.

RE reflects the Christian vision of the school. Special RE days, events with other schools and trips to different places of worship emphasise the high priority given to the subject. Teachers use an enquiry-based approach, planning lessons around 'big questions'. These stimulate deep-thinking discussions and reasoning. Staff are well supported by leaders to teach RE effectively. Pupils enjoy challenging lessons, learning about world religions and worldviews. A range of monitoring activities, including book scrutiny and learning walks have helped in the formation of an action plan to support the development of the subject. Leaders recognise that current assessment systems in RE are not sufficiently robust.

The vision is a thread that weaves through the daily life of Holy Trinity School enabling all to live and learn as a family of God.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Good
	Teaching and learning is good overall. Pupils enjoy RE, responding creatively to their learning as well as through discussion and writing. Leaders monitor books so that standards are consistently high and most make at least expected progress, including the disadvantaged. The balanced RE curriculum, following the diocesan syllabus and the resources of Understanding Christianity, ensures that pupils gain broad understanding and knowledge.		
Information			
School	Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, Northwood	Inspection date	7 March 2023
URN	102418	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided
Diocese/District	London	Pupils on roll	188
Headteacher	Clare Rodenas		
Chair of Governors	Sandra Hills		
Inspector	Jenny Earp	No.	288