

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Weston Church of England Primary and Nursery School

Vision

A Community, Learning and Growing

Our school's strong community includes our pupils, staff, parents, governors and others.

All members of this community are growing, learning and flourishing alongside one another.

To do this, we need strong roots to support our growth as individuals.

Our Christian Vision is based on Psalm 1 which compares people to trees, growing and flourishing.

We also learn about a range of Christian Values to help us understand the life and teachings of Jesus.

Our school logo reflects this vision, and our rural location.

Weston Church of England Primary and Nursery 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

- Rooted in Psalm 1, the Christian vision underpins the actions and priorities of leaders. This results in strong, positive relationships and a purposeful learning environment, which enables the flourishing of pupils and adults.
- The thoughtfully planned range of enrichment experiences broadens pupils' horizons. Therefore, they are helped to grow in confidence and develop new skills.
- Opportunities are provided for pupils to think about the wider global community. This develops their empathy and understanding.
- Religious education (RE) is carefully planned to build on pupils' knowledge of Christianity, different faiths and non-religious worldviews. This allows pupils to grow in their learning and appreciate a diverse range of perspectives.
- Collective worship is an established and cherished part of the school day. It enables pupils and adults to reflect on the school's Christian vision and values and contributes to their spiritual flourishing.

Development Points

- Embed the shared understanding of spirituality within the daily life of the school and across the curriculum. This is to create more intentional moments for pupils to develop spiritually.
- Extend the opportunities for pupils to respond to issues of justice and responsibility. This is so that they can explore solutions and take action on topics that matter to them.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Based on Psalm 1, the Christian vision is well established and embraced by the school community. Leaders create an enriching and purposeful learning environment where achievement is celebrated. When pupils think about the vision, they are motivated to persevere if learning gets difficult and to help others. Pupils and adults appreciate the strong sense of community in this small village school, which is rooted in positive and trusting relationships. Consequently, pupils and adults are enabled to learn and grow. As described in Psalm 1, they flourish like the tree growing beside a stream. Governors are proud of their school and are fully committed to its vision and values. They evaluate its effectiveness as a Church school through visits and talking to a range of pupils and adults. Well-established links with the local church and training from the diocese further strengthen the church foundation of the school.

Vision and School Culture

Underpinned by the Christian vision, the established sense of community creates a culture of kindness and respect. Pupils enjoy coming to school and parents value the welcoming and nurturing environment. The resultant calm atmosphere provides a positive place for pupils to learn and adults to work. Staff are skilled in using effective strategies to help pupils manage their emotions and to develop their self-awareness. Pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, benefit from a personalised approach. This allows them to grow in their learning and self-confidence. For example, a lunchtime nurture group is an effective safe space for pupils requiring a quieter play environment. Strong relationships, rooted in trust, enable staff to support families' specific needs. They go above and beyond to offer appropriate advice and guidance. The collaborative staff team grow and contribute to the school through a range of development opportunities. They value the priority placed on their welfare and the establishment of the staff wellbeing group. This has resulted in several initiatives to enhance their work-life balance. As a result, they feel well cared for by leaders and governors.

Vision and Curriculum

Leaders enrich the curriculum through a wide range of activities. These include visiting speakers, school trips, sports clubs, enhanced music curriculum provision and pupil leadership roles. Such experiences allow pupils to grow and develop new skills and supports their flourishing. Leaders have recently introduced a shared language to further the school's understanding of spirituality. Flowing from the vision, this is centred around people's relationship with God, self, others and nature. Within the curriculum, key questions are asked to encourage pupils to pause and reflect. For example, they consider the concept of belonging through the perspective of a character in a story. These opportunities contribute to pupils' spiritual development. Reflection spaces in classrooms are created for pupils to be still. However, the integration of these initiatives across the curriculum and the school's daily life is at an early stage. As a result, the opportunities available for pupils to develop spiritually is narrowed.

Worship and Spirituality

Daily collective worship presents a range of experiences for pupils and adults to reflect on the Christian vision and its associated values. The opening greeting 'alleluia' and the lighting of candles invites them to ponder on the Bible reading and to pray. Worship is enhanced by singing, drama, discussion and personal reflection. The 'Weston Worship Crew', consisting of pupils from Key Stage 2, help in the planning and leading of worship. Strong links with the local church facilitate weekly opportunities to enrich worship further. The termly services



held at the church are a highlight for the school community and are appreciated by parents. Pupils look forward to reading their prayers and sharing instrumental music, singing and drama in the service. These experiences strengthen the understanding of spirituality and contribute to the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. The effective use of floor books enables pupils to share their reflections. The celebration worship offers 'I wonder' moments and motivates pupils to take action, to 'do something good'. They value how this will support them in life.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Activities are introduced to ensure that pupils grow in their understanding of a range of perspectives and life experiences. This contributes to their awareness of justice and fairness inspiring them to be kind. For example, through the Parable of the Good Samaritan, pupils explore prejudice and injustice due to racism or bias. This helps them understand different points of view and parents value how their children are developing empathy. Inspired by the vision, pupils recognise that their community goes beyond the school and includes people locally and across the world. In particular, pupils have developed a strong connection with their twinned school in Zimbabwe. They learn that children like them have to pay to go to school. In response the school council organised a number of fundraising activities, which captured the imagination of all year groups. Pupils are involved in a range of other charity events. They collect donations for the food bank at Harvest and raise money for a children's charity. These activities enable pupils to contribute to making a difference. However, there are limited occasions for pupils to take initiative and actions for themselves.

Religious Education

Aligned with the Christian vision, RE is viewed as an important subject within the school. Training from the diocese and other providers is shared with staff. This supports the development of the RE curriculum, which is enhanced by appropriately selected resources. RE is carefully planned to build on pupils' knowledge and understanding over time. It offers opportunities for them to explore different religions and worldviews. As a result, pupils develop an appreciation of a range of beliefs. They value the ways in which this prepares them for their future lives as adults living in a diverse global community. The RE curriculum is enriched by a variety of activities, including visits to places of worship. Leaders evaluate the impact of the new RE curriculum to ensure pupils reflect, respond and make connections effectively.

Information

Address	Maiden Street, Weston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7AG		
Date	20 November 2025	URN	117413
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	105
Diocese	St Albans		
Headteacher	Geoff Holmes		
Chair of Governors	David Gunn		
Inspector	Sally Yarrow		