

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Katherine's Church of England Primary and Nursery School

Vision

Guided by God's love, our courage, diligence and ambition, inspires us to be curious and respectful global citizens. As one community, we flourish so we can make the world a better place and 'love our neighbour as ourselves.' (Mark 12:31).

Strengths

- A clear focus on the Christian vision provides opportunities for a rich, relevant and creative curriculum which enables children to flourish.
- Children joyfully engage with inspiring and invitational collective worship which is a tangible expression of the school's Christian vision.
- The embedded Christian vision has developed a highly inclusive environment where children, staff and parents are valued, supported and live well together.
- There is an active culture of justice and responsibility which is becoming integral to the life and work of the school. Children have a real desire to make changes in their community to benefit, not just themselves, but those who live and work there.

Development Points

- Embed the growing understanding of spirituality so as to deepen the children's experience of the fulness of life.
- Strengthen the assessment of children's knowledge in religious education (RE) so understanding can be deepened and developed.



Inspection Findings

St Katherine's is a Church of England school situated on Canvey Island. It is a place of joy and calm, peace and flourishing. The school vision is clearly articulated throughout the school's life and curriculum. St Katherine's is a vibrant place with a family atmosphere where pupils learn and achieve well. The school works in partnership with parents, carers and the community to enable children and staff to flourish. Parents speak of school values that reflect home life. There is a close and effective relationship with the local church. Staff and children know each other well and as a result they feel safe and valued. Staff model the vision to one another and to the children. There is a strong relationship with the Diocese which provides valuable advice, support and training.

The school's vision is deeply embedded, threading creatively throughout the curriculum. Children not only speak clearly and knowledgeably about the vision but effectively act it out in their treatment of each other. Staff and children share compassion, reflect on thinking and challenge respectfully, living the vision day by day. Children are richly valued and encouraged to make a difference as they 'love their neighbour as themselves'. The mental health and wellbeing of children and staff is a valued priority. Well-trained and effective staff care deeply for children and one another. This facilitates a community of 'curious and respectful' children who think of themselves as 'global citizens', caring for their corner of the world. Parents speak highly of the nurturing staff and the effective support offered by the school. Leaders are committed to supporting every member of the school to flourish spiritually, emotionally and academically. Creative outside spaces, including a sensory garden, offer further enriching experiences for children in their learning and play.

The vision and values of the school have been effectively sown into the curriculum. Robust, clear plans allow children to learn effectively and develop both individually and together. Monitoring and evaluation are well structured and are enhanced by effective governors. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are fully included and have clear, structured help to achieve well and flourish. Staff successfully adapt the curriculum to meet the varying needs of vulnerable and SEND children. Space is creatively used to provide vulnerable and SEND children with safe places to learn at their own pace. There is a rich provision of extra activities which elicit strengths and talents as well as help with wrap around care. Parents were keen to communicate and verify what was clearly visible, happy, confident children who are well rounded and equipped for what is going on in the world. Parents value the way staff go 'above and beyond' to support them and their children in improving learning.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school and has a positive impact. Staff and children value the opportunity to come together and focus on Bible stories and planned themes. These effectively encourage children and staff to grow and flourish. Collective worship is creative and inclusive, drawing the children in with valuable opportunities to reflect and respond. There is a calm, inclusive and reflective atmosphere. The local vicar, also a governor, is a regular presence in school. She brings opportunities to expand worship into the local church and holds a monthly 'Messy Church' in the school. The pupils enjoy singing and signing their songs which are then joyfully taken into the community and family homes. A worship group of children eagerly assist and they are developed and encouraged by the headteacher and local clergy. Time is given to ensure these children have an opportunity to reflect and take part in worship themselves. A valuable spiritual reflection area has been set up within each classroom. This allows reflection to be carried into the day. However, the link between reflection and spirituality is currently not well understood.

Moving around the school there is a quiet, caring atmosphere where acts of kindness are customary. Children and staff treat each other well allowing everyone to be catered for and supported to live well together. Wellbeing and mental health are valued and prioritised. Each class has a feelings colour chart where they can indicate how they are feeling each day. This allows children to express worries and emotions safely with staff. The vision is



clearly reflected in how this community supports and helps one another to make confident choices. A positive behaviour policy produces a tranquil atmosphere where children accept each other as they are. Parents are experiencing flourishing children and a true family atmosphere, with respect and empathy being lived out within school and community. Governors are proactive in championing staff wellbeing which is effective in enabling staff to flourish.

Children treasure their community where they want to contribute and help. They have worked to enact change through local litter picking and successfully writing to the local MP and councillors to ask for more bins. A peaceful protest to improve the local lake and a speed awareness campaign with the police are just a few examples of this desire to endorse change in their community. A developing whole school project is linking children with elderly and lonely people to read, play games and share local recent history together. A parent described the school as championing the individual with a strong sense of community. Children not only recognise injustice but want to actively do something to change it.

Religious education (RE) is well resourced and has a high profile within the school. Staff use good quality teaching materials enhanced by various schemes. There is excellent RE support from the diocese who offer moderation, training and advice. Christianity is the core of the school's curriculum. Major world religions and worldviews are covered in depth. Children speak proudly about the interest and respect they have for learning how others act, think and feel. As one child put it 'the more we know, the more we understand.' Vulnerable and SEND children are supported effectively to access RE at their own levels, making good progress. RE books show clear progression and children working well at their different tasks. Effective planning builds on valuable prior learning. Governors exercise effective monitoring and evaluation through link visits, policy implementation, regular training and book scrutiny. However, assessment of children's knowledge is not at the level it should be, this is recognised and planning is being put in place to rectify this.

Information

Address	Hilton Road, Canvey Island, Essex. SS8 9QA		
Date	17 October 2024	URN	115264
Type of school	Maintained Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	222
Diocese/District	Chelmsford		
MAT/Federation	N/A		
Headteacher	Anne-Marie Taylor		
Chair of Governors	Marion Walford		
Inspector	Julie Bowen		