

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Stanion Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Vision

We are a nurturing school with close links to our community where all are inspired to achieve their best. The school provides education of the highest quality; our children embrace every opportunity, enabling all to flourish.

Everyone is valued and loved for their individual worth; we are inspired by Matthew's gospel, to 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All develop mutual respect based on compassion, honesty and trust.

Stanion Church of England Primary School: Love, Inspire, Flourish Embrace

Strengths

- The strong Christian vision is embedded through the school's core values of Love, Inspire, Flourish, Embrace (LIFE). Compassionate and knowledgeable leaders at all levels use the vision to underpin decision making and actions. This ensures it is understood and lived out by the school community.
- There is a deeply rooted culture of care and wellbeing. Demonstrating Christian love and supporting positive mental health is a priority. As a result, relationships are strong, and behaviour is exemplary.
- Collective worship unites the school community. It reinforces an understanding of the vision and values that influence daily life. It ensures that pupils and adults flourish spiritually.
- Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning in religious education (RE), which is reflected in their engagement and the creativity of their work. This is further enriched through well-constructed and well-planned projects which allow pupils to think more deeply about core concepts and ideas.
- Partnerships with the church, governors, the Diocese of Peterborough, and the wider community are a strength. They support and promote the school to live out its vision well.

Development Points

- To develop pupils' awareness of Christianity as a global, multi-cultural world faith. This will support them in their understanding of Christianity in diverse cultures and communities.



Inspection Findings

Stanion Church of England Primary is a welcoming school. The strong Christian vision, based on Matthew's gospel, is a driving force for actions and decisions. The school dedicates time to building strong relationships. Pupils and their families are known by school staff and pupils develop in a kind, loving environment. There is a high expectation for pupils to achieve well. Pupils and adults flourish here. The school values of LIFE are lived out and understood. This creates a culture of love and an environment for learning. Active governors and clergy support the school. Working together, they challenge, celebrate, and share good practice. The governing body ensures pupils have the best holistic education. They monitor and evaluate the school's strengths and development areas. This underpins their strategic decision-making and informs planning. The school sets solid foundations from the Early Years Foundation Stage and prepares pupils well for their secondary school. Pupils say Stanion school is 'one of their favourite places', where 'they can make memories' and 'learn to become a good person'. They embrace learning and develop their skills and talents. Consequently, they thrive.

The vision and values are embedded through the bespoke curriculum. It is reviewed and changes year to year, with the love of learning at the forefront of developments. Experiences in and outside the classroom are memorable, with pupils embracing the 'Stanion superpowers' supporting their learning and wellbeing. Pupils learn in the forest school and in 'Eve's Garden.' This enhances their appreciation of nature, creating a sense of awe and wonder. Pupils are encouraged to show gratitude and embrace the gifts of nature. They talk about humans being 'the gardeners and farmers of God's creation'. Pupils therefore develop spiritually, being inspired to look after the world and make it a better place. Those who are vulnerable or with special educational needs and disabilities flourish here. Staff are committed to pupils, regardless of ability, so they focus on 'keep up, not catch up'. This ensures that with structured support and inclusion, the development of pupils' gifts and talents is a priority.

Collective worship is the beating heart of the school. It embodies the school's vision. Pupils' and adults' lives are enriched, supporting their spiritual flourishing. Time for reflection and stillness provides a safe space to think deeply and pause. Pupils are engaged and actively involved. Worship offers time to be 'closer to God' and learn 'how to be a good human'. The vicar gives time to the school, enhancing both collective worship and RE. Her work with pupils and adults enables opportunities for them to reflect on their own faith and views. This supports spiritual development. School services are regularly held in church. Parents and pupils value this partnership. It provides a natural link for families with their local church. Pupils apply to become part of the school's church council. They flourish through planning and delivering collective worship. A whole-school project on spirituality, involving all stakeholders, means there is an established, shared approach. The 'ows, wows, and nows' of life are explored through collective worship. This allows pupils to develop an understanding of the world and consider their place within it. During worship, time is given to explore key Christian concepts and big questions. This invites deep personal reflection. Pupils leave worship feeling inspired to do better, be better, and feel closer to one another.

Wellbeing and positive mental health support are prioritised. This enables adults and pupils to feel loved and valued. The school community contributed to a wellbeing book, providing their tips and strategies for staying mentally well. Contributions to the book acknowledge 'wellbeing is as personal as faith and only we know what brings inner peace'. This book has been distributed widely so sharing good practice with a broad audience. Staffing is stable and they share areas of expertise. As a result, they thrive as individuals, developing professionally and personally. They are role models for pupils, sharing their gifts and talents. Pupils are supported to do the same. Consequently, they understand everyone is unique and contribute differently to the world. Reconciliation and forgiveness are talked about confidently. Pupils know to treat others how they want to be treated. Behaviour across the school is therefore exemplary.



Pupils drive for change and find their voice. Projects are created to enable them to explore issues of injustice. They are encouraged to seek out what their response to those issues might be. This makes pupils passionate about environmental and global concerns. An art gallery was created in school to focus on endangered animals. The artwork was sold to the community to raise money for the Ukraine appeal. This project enriched pupils' lives as they spoke about injustice and reflected on their responsibilities to God's world. Examples of these projects are shared widely. The school has a strong partnership with the diocese and other church schools. Leaders share expertise through serving on diocesan committees. As a result, pupils and staff feel connected to a wider family, enhancing their sense of responsibility to others.

RE is an inspirational and engaging subject at the heart of the curriculum. It has a high profile and high priority. Leaders are strong advocates for RE and support staff. They attend diocesan training and disseminate information. This builds expertise and confidence in the subject. RE is well-planned and delivered using high-quality resources. The RE curriculum and projects undertaken allow pupils to develop their skills and knowledge about religions and non-religious worldviews. They learn in depth and have a balanced understanding of beliefs and practices. Pupils reflect on different ways of believing, thinking, and living, so have a growing understanding of the world. They talk to their families about RE, exploring meaningful conversations further. This enables them to explore their own views and develops personal knowledge. The local church is a place of love and learning. It enriches the RE curriculum. Pupils reflect on visits with enthusiasm. The experiences of the Christian faith help learners deepen their knowledge and understanding. Bibles are given to pupils to support learning, offer guidance, and encourage spiritual flourishing. Regular and rigorous governor monitoring takes place. When action is needed, leaders act promptly, resulting in continual improvement in RE. Opportunities to understand Christianity as a global faith are underdeveloped. Enthusiastic teachers have good subject knowledge. They help pupils to learn accurately and feel challenged. RE is assessed systematically. Leaders track outcomes. They meet with pupils and teachers to look at achievement and check understanding. This enables staff to ensure their lessons meet pupils' needs. Pupils therefore make excellent progress in RE.

Information

Address	Cardigan Road, Stanion, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN14 1BY		
Date	18 October 2024	URN	122112
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	107
Diocese/District	Peterborough		
Headteacher	Wayne Jones		
Chair of Governors	Amanda De Choisy		
Inspector	Jemma Coulson		