

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Kettering	
Address	Grafton Street, Kettering, NN16 9DF

School vision
<p>We want St Andrew's to be a beacon of our community that inspires adults and children alike with outstanding learning and teaching. Where children develop a thirst and love of learning that will be lifelong. We want St Andrew's to be a school where children learn to love their neighbour as themselves and 'Where young minds grow and young hearts learn to care' through a thoughtful and wide-ranging development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development within the Christian faith. We want our values to be our children's virtues.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders create a powerful, well-articulated vision that is clearly understood and drives all aspects of school life. Pupils flourish in this inclusive and accepting community. The school's Christian vision and values are lived out daily by pupils and adults. • Wellbeing and inclusion are at the heart of the school. It embraces adults and pupils so that their lives are enhanced and for many, transformed. The wider impact of the Christian vision is seen in the school's highly effective support to the local community. • Pupils with special needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well-supported. There is a strong focus on working with families and removing barriers to enable success. • Thoughtfully planned collective worship enables a meaningful understanding and experience of Christian beliefs. Inspiring and inclusive, it unites the school community in a shared endeavour to reflect on God, self, others and the world. Partnership with the church and other Christian organisations enrich spiritual development. • Pupils are encouraged to take on responsibilities and to become advocates for positive change both locally, nationally and internationally. They are empowered to value the world and improve the lives of others.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop opportunities for deeper questioning in religious education (RE) to ensure pupils, of all abilities, are challenged.
Inspection findings
<p>St Andrew's School is a vibrant, inclusive school where everyone is valued and welcomed. The Christian vision, reviewed regularly, is anchored in the teachings of Jesus' commandment to 'love your neighbour as yourself'. The school captures the outworking of this vision through their motto of 'Where young minds grow and young hearts learn to care.' The Christian values are at the heart of decision making. It unites a culture and a belief so all pupils can flourish. Governors know the school well and use this knowledge to evaluate the effectiveness of the vision. Resonating from this are eleven values that permeate all aspects of school life. These values sustain and guide the school</p>

community. It supports leaders through times of calm and turbulence. The Christian values contribute to a nurturing ethos and are understood by pupils. Parents appreciate the staff's commitment to ensuring that everyone can achieve their best. Inspirational leaders, supported by a dedicated staff team, serve the school community exceptionally well.

The curriculum is designed with the Christian vision at its core. Leaders craft a knowledge rich curriculum which ignites pupils' curiosity and embeds a love of learning. Bespoke support ensures that pupils, including those with SEND, make progress in their learning. Newcomers are welcomed and feel loved because the school community naturally promotes difference and diversity. Staff have a sound understanding of spirituality. Planned reflection times encourages pupils to pause and contemplate. The shared language titled 'windows, mirrors and doors' has a positive impact. It creates a cohesive approach in developing opportunities for spiritual growth.

Collective worship is an important part of the school day. All are welcomed to this special time. Whether pupils are members of other faiths or have no faith, all are invited to participate. Pupils talk about their enjoyment of worship, describing it as a peaceful time to pause and reflect. These opportunities enable them to grow in confidence and develop their own ideas about faith. Regular opportunities to pray throughout the school day is embedded practice and is invitational in nature. Pupils are involved in planning, creating, and leading worship. This includes writing and reading prayers that support their spiritual development. Pupils are respectful, they engage and contribute. Worship is rich and varied. It is planned around the Christian calendar, Bible stories, the vision and associated values. Pupils take key messages from coming together, such as treating others with respect. They make connections with their own lives and capture and celebrate them in their values passports. Worship is enhanced by links to St Andrew's Church and the Baptist church. Clergy regularly lead collective worship, enabling pupils to experience different styles and approaches. The school is also supported by a 'Mission Enabler', who provides practical support, encouragement and enriches the spiritual wellbeing of the whole school community.

Pupils are polite, well-mannered and support each other with kindness. They have a range of strategies to help them disagree peacefully and resolve disputes if needed. The behaviour policy, underpinned by the Christian vision, focuses on restoring and repairing relationships. Pupils understand the importance of forgiveness and starting afresh. Pupils feel that they are treated well and appreciate that adults in school really try to help them. Leaders invested in training a mental health first aider and developed outdoor learning activities for all pupils. These bold decisions enhance the curriculum and support wellbeing across the whole school. Staff are overwhelmingly appreciative of how leaders actively support workload reduction. They value their professional support and a culture where skills and talents are recognised and shared across the academy trust. They are given the opportunity to grow in their roles through professional development and training. They feel listened to. They give practical illustrations of when steps have been taken to consider wellbeing. Reflecting the Christian vision and the value of compassion, members of the school community are treated well.

Pupils are given many opportunities to take on leadership responsibilities. They are supported in these roles to develop skills and confidence to act as role models in the school community. 'Peer Mediators' are particularly instrumental in demonstrating the school's values. They volunteer in the playground, during lunchtime, ensuring that the pupils are enjoying a safe and happy playtime. 'Good choice cards' are handed out by 'Peer Mediators' during worship time. They celebrate the actions of pupils and encourage others to follow their example. Underpinned by the Christian vision of 'loving their neighbour as themselves', pupils have a secure understanding of their influence upon others. Through their support of local and national charities, pupils are given the opportunity to see beyond themselves. Singing at local care homes, contributing to Christmas appeals and donating to charity shops demonstrate how they are instrumental as positive citizens. Pupils confidently share examples where they have taken part in the monthly 'Love your Neighbour' challenges to make meaningful change. For example, they have raised the awareness of the plight of refugees in Syria and provided humanitarian relief. Pupils' commitment to supporting the local foodbank demonstrates a desire to help others, and tackle injustice in the world around them. St Andrew's eco

warriors have taken action to monitor electricity usage, running ‘carbon free Fridays’ and a ‘Uniform Swap Shop.’ They have also recycled their food waste to reduce carbon emission. Pupils have a strong understanding of the importance of caring for God’s world.

RE makes a good contribution to pupils' flourishing. It strengthens the school’s vision by promoting an understanding of Christianity and a range of faiths. Planning is sequential and this results in knowledge that is built upon each year. Training provided by the diocese and the academy trust is effectively shared with other staff members. This ensures that the subject knowledge and skills of the staff are up to date. Pupils talk about the importance of learning about different religions and show respect and appreciation for them. RE is enriched through opportunities to visit various places of worship. Pupils talk positively of these experiences. Learning is recorded in different ways, including through art. Knowledge organisers are used effectively to help pupils retain key information and religious vocabulary. However, opportunities to develop pupils' deeper thinking through challenging and thought-provoking questioning is not as developed. Foundation governors contribute effectively to the monitoring of RE.

The inspection findings indicate that St Andrew's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	12 June 2024	URN	140820
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	377
Diocese	Peterborough		
MAT/Federation	Peterborough Diocese Education Trust		
Headteacher	Ben Arnell		
Chair	Cathy Armstrong		
Inspector	Rachael Hutchinson	No.	2235