



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Paulerspury Church of England Primary School	
Address	High Street, Paulerspury, Towcester, NN12 7NA

School vision

We are a nurturing Christian school providing an inclusive and stimulating environment for all. We deliver purposeful, challenging and enjoyable experiences. Our children are inspired to become confident and enthusiastic life-long learners, able to reach their full potential academically, physically and spiritually.

‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.’ (Colossians 3:23)

School strengths

- The vision, enhanced by its eleven associated Christian values, is the driving force for decisions, actions and the daily life of the school.
- The bold curriculum engages pupils and reflects the school's context well. The inclusive environment particularly upholds those pupils who are vulnerable, enabling them to flourish.
- The school enjoys strong, beneficial partnerships with Innovate Multi Academy Trust (MAT), the local church and the diocese. As a consequence, adults and pupils are supported well.
- Collective worship provides good opportunities for personal spiritual growth, reflection and response. It is invitational and inclusive.
- The RE curriculum enables pupils to encounter a well-balanced breadth of experiences in considering world religions, including Christianity.

Areas for development

- Improve the detail and focus of monitoring in order to measure the impact of the Christian vision more effectively.
- Provide a breadth of opportunities to deepen pupils' understanding of injustice and their awareness of the wider world. This is to encourage pupil-led social action.
- Embed spiritual development within the whole curriculum to enable depth and richness in learning and reflection in all subjects.

Inspection findings

This loving, nurturing community places pupils and their families at the very heart of school life. Driven by the vision to provide an inclusive and stimulating environment, staff work hard to promote the Christian values. This means that the character and moral development of pupils is well supported, thus equipping them for their lives ahead. Leaders, including governors, are invested in Paulerspury as a Church school and understand its context well. They are deeply committed to its success. This ensures that, ‘whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,’ is a living reality. Becoming members of the Innovate MAT has resulted in rapid school improvement and a positive culture. Opportunities for collaborative working across other schools, allows staff to share good

practice and resources. For instance, by networking with other subject leaders, teachers gain valuable expertise and knowledge. Trust leaders provide constant help and challenge to ensure the school continues to improve. Dedicated governors are frequent, encouraging visitors and support the school diligently. However, monitoring of the vision is not systematic. Therefore, leaders are not fully aware of the impact of the vision. Parents speak highly of the school and of the nurturing care given to their children. They cherish the teaching of Christian values, whether they have faith or not.

Bold strategic decisions and inventive approaches enhance learning, empowering members of the school community to flourish. These include a vibrant curriculum, an effective framework for teaching writing and the provision of a sensory room. As a result, pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), thrive and develop confidence. A wide range of extra-curricular activities, including clubs, trips and residential, deepen pupils' learning experiences considerably. The school's stimulating rural location is used well. This provides quality opportunities for curriculum enrichment such as forest school and gardening, promoting spiritual development and wellbeing. A local outdoor and adventurous activity centre provides opportunities for pupils to be challenged and grow resilience. The school's shared understanding of spirituality is that it is a connection to something 'bigger than ourselves.' Pupils are inspired to look within and beyond themselves and their immediate surroundings. The school's well-known acronym, SONG (self, others, nature, God or greater), is a visual reminder of this concept. Identifying opportunities for spiritual growth within the curriculum is at an early stage of development.

Collective worship is engaging and provides effective support for spiritual flourishing. It is a special time when the community comes together. Worship is invitational and inclusive, giving pupils opportunities to participate and undertake leadership roles. Securely shaped by the vision, its themes reflect on the eleven values, biblical teaching and other worldviews. These contribute significantly to spiritual development. Acts of worship follow a familiar pattern of welcome, learning, reflecting and responding. An impressive range of people from the local Christian community lead worship. This means that adults and pupils experience different styles and interesting approaches. Clergy from St James the Great Church and the Open the Book team also make a positive impact on worship. Pupils find these sessions particularly enjoyable and memorable. Frequent visits to the church during the year, offer meaningful experiences for deep reflection and spiritual growth. Therefore, through words and song, there is a richness of Christian praise. Parents and pupils value the weekly celebration assemblies, where awards are given for achievement and demonstrating the values. The end of term governors' awards for those who best represent the school's Christian values, are particularly prized.

Paulerspury is a place where visitors and members of the school are welcomed unreservedly. The extensive pastoral provision means families trust the school. This is because emotional literacy support assistants (ELSA) and family support workers provide personalised help for individual needs. Leaders are committed to supporting and developing staff by exploring ways to improve wellbeing and limit workload. They have access to online medical and mental health support. As a result, they are happy at the school and feel valued. Engaging with a local mental health support team provides access to a range of provision, enabling pupils with specific needs to be supported effectively. The trust's special educational needs coordinator gives additional advice, helping individuals further. The sense of togetherness at the school means that at times of difficulty there is strong support for one another. This positive culture, underpinned by the Christian vision, ensures that pupils and adults are treated well.

Pupils have a clear sense of justice and engage well with the community for charitable fundraising. This includes supporting the Towcester foodbank, Hope Centre for the homeless and Christian Aid. Because responsibility is one of the school's focused Christian values, pupils are encouraged to consider what this means in practice. They undertake roles such as mental health champions and

eco ambassadors effectively. Older pupils take pride in helping the younger ones, for instance by leading them by hand as they walk to the church. Staff consistently model the school's Christian values in their dialogue with pupils. This means that there are positive, respectful relationships throughout the school. Paulerspury is a small school with a big heart. Therefore, a strong sense of compassion and commitment enables pupils and adults to flourish together. Pupils develop their knowledge of world issues and aspects of injustice through topics in the curriculum. However, this is not translated into practical response. Therefore, opportunities to lead social action are not fully realised.

RE has a high status across all year groups. The curriculum is regularly adapted to support the changing needs of pupils in mixed age classes. It is built around the locally agreed syllabus, ensuring good coverage of Christianity and a range of major world religions. Positive partnerships with the local diocese and clergy enable staff to have confidence in teaching RE through the provision of professional development opportunities. Good quality teaching resources strengthen the depth of pupils' knowledge and understanding. Pupils enjoy RE and speak with enthusiasm about their learning. They confidently discuss challenging, big questions and reflect on their learning. Thoughts and views on key concepts such as Humanism are shared readily, enriching their understanding of worldviews. Visits to places of worship such as the synagogue and cathedral enhance the RE curriculum.

The inspection findings indicate that Paulerspury Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church School.

Information			
Inspection date	12 June 2024	URN	149281
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	65
Diocese	Peterborough		
MAT/Federation	Innovate Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Robin Bunting		
Chair	Paul Danstan		
Inspector	Jenny Earp	No.	288