

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Burbage Church of England Infant School

Vision

Loving

We all belong to the Burbage Church of England Infants' extended family - school, church, community. We all care for everyone within it. We believe everyone can be a good friend.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

Living

We work hard to learn to live together and to be the best we can. We celebrate everybody's strengths and embrace each other's differences, respecting all and living honest lives together.

"Love your neighbour as you love yourself." Luke 10:27

Learning

Learning is amazing and we all strive to discover the next exciting adventure. We all believe that we can and if we can't now, we will soon.

"Everyone who hears these words and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

Strengths

- Leaders, staff, governors and pupils exemplify the Christian vision. This results in the school being like a harmonious extended family, where each person's individuality is celebrated and differences are embraced.
- Collaborative partnerships with other schools, the local church and the diocese enrich the life of Burbage as a Church school. This aids the flourishing of pupils and adults.
- High quality collective worship, rooted in the Christian vision, greatly benefits pupils and adults. It is inclusive and inspirational, enabling them to grow spiritually.
- Pastoral support for pupils, families and staff is exemplary. This ensures pupils and adults are able to thrive in a friendly, caring, compassionate and happy school community.
- An active culture of justice and responsibility enables pupils to make good moral choices. This contributes to them making a positive difference to their school, to the local community and the wider world.

Development Points

- Extend opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum. This is to increase and strengthen the ways in which pupils flourish spiritually.
- Ensure the religious education (RE) curriculum explores Christianity as a global faith. This is so that pupils appreciate the diversity of belief, practice and tradition in Christianity.



Inspection Findings

Burbage Church of England Infant School's Christian vision infuses the whole school with a very nurturing, supportive and caring character. Inspired by the vision, members of the school community love one another, live well together and learn effectively. Values of friendship, truth, compassion, perseverance and respect, underpinned by the vision, are lived out by staff, governors and pupils. Leaders meet and greet families warmly every morning, creating an atmosphere of welcome and togetherness. Pupils respond positively to the staff's high expectations of them. As a result of this, they are friendly towards one another and actively demonstrate care and help when needed. They take pride in their learning and enjoy school life. Guided by the ambitious vision, the talents and gifts of both pupils and staff are developed and celebrated. The school provides a safe, calm, happy, purposeful, stimulating and carefully structured learning environment in which pupils and adults flourish. Consequently, behaviour is exceptional, relationships are strong and pupils are enabled to give of their best as learners. Constructive partnerships with other schools also contribute to the flourishing of adults and pupils beyond Burbage's immediate community.

The Christian vision shapes a rich and ambitious curriculum, which supports pupils' academic, social, spiritual and physical development. They are engaged effectively in a wide range of educational activities and enjoy their learning. The curriculum helps them to develop curiosity and creativity, imparting a love of learning. Pupils are equipped to develop empathy, with an awareness of their place in the local community and beyond. Opportunities for spiritual development are being introduced into the curriculum. These are starting to enable pupils to become more aware of themselves as unique human beings, developing their compassion for others. This is combined with a growing sense of awe and wonder for the natural world, and valuing faith. Consequently, the curriculum supports the development of thoughtful and appreciative pupils who look after and value one another and their world. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) benefit from skilful teaching and additional support coordinated by senior staff. Moreover, extracurricular clubs and trips enrich pupils' learning experiences. However, the planning of spiritual development activities in each subject and year group is at a relatively early stage.

The carefully planned programme of worship, rooted in Bible teaching and Anglican traditions, contributes strongly to the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. Worship reflects the emphasis in the school vision on loving, living and learning. It enables pupils to appreciate the school's values and their application to everyday life. It also draws on distinctively Church of England traditions which support thoughtful participation. Christian festivals are celebrated joyfully, with both traditional and modern worship songs, which pupils and adults enjoy singing. Close partnerships with local clergy enrich worship, broadening the experiences of pupils and adults. Church services add to the variety of worship seasonally, providing opportunities to welcome new pupils and presenting Bibles to leavers. This supports the pupils' continuing spiritual growth and development, which can be seen in the confidence with which they lead worship. Prayer is an integral part, not only of collective worship, but also of the whole school day. It punctuates each day with times of reflection and thanksgiving, which heightens pupils' and adults' awareness of life's spiritual dimension. Prayer spaces provide opportunities for informal and personal prayer, which pupils value. Moreover, the positive impact of worship inspires many pupils to share their experiences with their parents at home. Collective worship is characteristically inclusive and inspirational, enriching the spiritual development of pupils and adults.

A deeply caring culture permeates throughout the whole school. Pupils and adults treat one another particularly well, as a consequence of the vision being lived out. It effectively champions the importance of loving one another and living well together. Pupils and adults celebrate and value differences. As a result, relationships are strong and behaviour is consistently of a high standard. Members of the school community feel comfortable, safe, secure, equally valued and respected. Leaders and staff work proactively to prevent any bullying. If problems arise, staff and pupils work well together to resolve any difficulties. Reconciliation and restorative practices are used to rebuild



and sustain good relationships. The exceptional pastoral support for pupils and families is highly commendable and is transformational for many. Exciting learning activities, as well as effective strategies and therapies, support mental health and wellbeing very effectively. Consequently, pupils enjoy attending and speak about their school with affection. Leaders' emphasis on nurture, wellbeing and positive relationships is valued by parents, enriching the partnership between home and school. Furthermore, leaders manage colleagues' workload carefully and invest in providing high quality professional development opportunities for staff, so they are well-supported. This impressively contributes to the stability, progression and development of a very capable, talented, purposeful and unified staff team.

The Christian vision supports a vibrant culture of justice and responsibility. Rules derived from the vision, and their associated school values, underscore the importance of justice and responsibility. Performing a song about injustice at a headteachers' conference and letter writing to a local museum strengthen pupils' understanding of injustice. They also willingly take on age-appropriate leadership responsibilities to help one another and the staff. Pupils are encouraged to play an active part in caring for their local community, through participating in a local arts event, a scarecrow festival and a community open day. Moreover, visits to a local care home inculcate pupils' respect for older generations. As well as supporting local charities, pupils also raise funds for national and international charitable organisations, broadening their understanding of injustice. Pupils on the school council regularly make decisions about how to improve the school. This leads to pupils being involved in promoting the school's anti-bullying policy and designing playground markings to encourage better play. School councillors also promote Remembrance and advise on the use of buddy benches and toilet improvements. They help with the training of the school therapy dog, Winnie. In addition, the eco committee is starting to consider sustainability, so that pupils can become agents of positive change environmentally. Pupils are empowered and encouraged to develop their sense of personal responsibility to others through a wide range of activities in, and beyond, the curriculum. This inspires them to serve the common good and make changes for the better.

The effective religious education (RE) curriculum is thoughtfully aligned to the Christian vision and associated values. Leaders ensure the curriculum is accurate, well-sequenced and relevant. Concepts and topics are introduced in a logical order which builds upon prior knowledge. The provision, profile, and priority of RE in each year reflects its place as a core subject in the curriculum. The RE curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to build on their prior knowledge and to deepen their understanding of their own personal worldview, and those of others, over time. It is relevant to pupils' lives and experiences, making connections between religious concepts and real-world issues. This helps them engage, fostering understanding and empathy. The RE curriculum encourages critical thinking and enquiry, providing opportunities for children to ask and answer deep and searching questions. Monitoring and evaluation of RE by leaders, including governors, contributes to its continuing improvement. It is well-resourced and professional development for staff has had a beneficial impact on the effectiveness of the RE curriculum. Opportunities to visit places of worship and enrichment days further benefit pupils' learning. The RE curriculum contributes well to their spiritual development. It enables pupils to gain a knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice. It also helps them make sense of worldviews and a range of religious traditions. However, the extent to which it explores the diversity in belief, practice and tradition within Christianity, as a global faith, is less secure.

Information

Address	Grove Road, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 2AE		
Date	7 May 2025	URN	120121
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	243
Diocese	Leicester		
Headteacher	Zoe Driver		
Chair of Governors	Rebecca Jones		
Inspector	Peter Cantley		