

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Spofforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Vision

‘Together we love, learn and thrive’.

‘As I have loved you, so you must love one another’ (John 13:34)

Spofforth CE Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The school’s clear Christian vision is understood and driven by leaders and governors, underpinning their actions and decisions. As a result, pupils and adults flourish in this welcoming, nurturing and inclusive school.
- The curriculum, shaped by the vision, is carefully planned and adapted to meet learners’ needs, enabling pupils to thrive. This is particularly evident in the school’s support and nurture of those who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Collective worship is inspiring, welcoming and engaging. Strong relationships between the school and local church enhance the impact of worship on pupils and adults. The spiritual life of the school is enriched through meaningful opportunities for reflection.
- The school promotes loving relationships, where pupils and adults are welcomed, valued and feel known. Committed staff are resolute in their care, with their actions demonstrating their determination to ensure pupils have the opportunity to flourish.
- Inspired by the vision, Spofforth fosters a culture where pupils are encouraged to respect others through acts of justice and thoughtfulness. This encourages a sense of personal responsibility where pupils and adults play a central role in their village, actively supporting others.

Development Points

- Enhance the way that opportunities for spiritual development are threaded throughout the curriculum and the extent to which pupils can recognise these. This is to extend the depth of these experiences and the way pupils’ can express how they enhance their spiritual flourishing.
- Strengthen the extent to which the recently revised religious education (RE) curriculum is embedded. This is so that pupils have greater opportunities to extend their knowledge and understanding of a range of worldviews and religions.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision creates a culture where nurture and love seamlessly flow throughout Spofforth Church of England Primary. The vision of 'Together, we learn, love, and thrive' is deeply embedded within the school, shaping its ethos and day-to-day practices. The values resonate throughout the community, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose for pupils, staff and families alike. Both adults and pupils articulate the school's Christian vision and associated values with confidence, showcasing a reflective understanding of their importance. They underpin decision-making, promote unity and strengthen relationships across the school community. The emphasis on togetherness ensures that the school is a place where pupils feel valued, cared for and inspired to flourish.

Shaped by the Christian vision, the curriculum is thoughtfully designed to help pupils thrive. It is carefully sequenced and progressive, providing pupils opportunities to achieve whilst also celebrating individuality and difference. Recognising diversity as a strength, the school ensures that inclusion is a fundamental aspect of the learning experience. A meaningful partnership with a school in Bradford allows pupils from varied backgrounds to learn and grow together. Through this collaboration, pupils develop an appreciation of diversity, explore their own identities and form stronger connections. Creative and memorable learning experiences are a characteristic of the school's approach to learning. Examples include artistic and written work inspired by the creation story. Pupils and adults treasure moments of spontaneous spiritual growth and reflection, which arise naturally during the school day. Although not fully embedded, leaders have taken steps to integrate spirituality into the curriculum, recognising its importance for personal development. However, the absence of a shared and consistent understanding of spirituality across the school limits its overall impact.

Collective worship is valued and reflects the school's clear Christian vision. Carefully planned and thoughtfully delivered, worship provides spiritually enriching moments for pupils and adults alike. However, the way the impact of this can be expressed is underdeveloped. Worship serves as a time for meaningful reflection, connection and inspiration, fostering a sense of unity throughout the school community. The school benefits from a strong partnership with All Saints Church, which enhances the quality and impact of worship. The local church's 'Open the Book' team collaborate closely with pupils to creatively enact Bible stories. This helps them to engage with Scripture in a tangible and relatable way. This intergenerational approach highlights the importance of community and strengthens relationships between pupils and church members. Pupils play an active role in leading prayers as part of the 'Worship Team'. These responsibilities are embraced with enthusiasm, allowing pupils to grow in confidence and providing opportunities to deepen their spiritual understanding. Parents highlight the positive impact of worship on their children, noting how it fosters kindness, empathy, and care in their interactions at home. Adults in the community express pride when they see pupils demonstrate their talents and learning during 'sharing worship' and 'pupil workshops'. The strong partnership between the school, church and diocese exemplifies the vision of a loving relationship. Leaders ensure that these partnerships remain central to the school's aspirations for the flourishing of its pupils.

The school's vision of care ensures wellbeing is at the heart of school life, creating a culture where staff and pupils thrive. Staff feel supported and appreciated by leaders who encourage their professional development. They consistently go above and beyond, working closely with parents to support the individual needs of pupils. This relationship creates a sense of value and belonging for pupils where they feel known and understood. Parents praise the school's nurturing atmosphere, noting its positive impact on their children's development. The vision drives the school's support for those who are vulnerable or have SEND with individual plans recognising the



uniqueness of learners. Leaders work hard to secure the necessary resources and interventions, ensuring pupils have the opportunity to thrive. Parents value the welcoming nature of the school, with one noting it is a place where 'smiles and positivity radiate from everyone'. This is a direct result of the school's commitment to the wellbeing of adults and pupils.

The Christian vision inspires pupils to actively consider the needs of others. They take on leadership roles and actively participate in initiatives that make a meaningful difference in their community. Through the school council and other initiatives, pupils are empowered to bring their ideas to life, contributing to a culture of service. Strong connections between pupils and the wider community are enhanced through the school's active support of local organisations. Attendance at local café church and messy church services extend the links between school and church. This, enhanced through active events such as local litter picks, strengthen pupils' commitment to addressing local needs. This is guided by the vision and extends to global issues. Opportunities for pupils to explore inequality and injustice increase their understanding about the world they live in. Collaborating with a local Malawi charity has been especially effective, reinforcing pupils' commitment to taking personal responsibility for others. Pupils strive to create a fairer, more equitable world.

The recently revised RE curriculum is clearly structured and well-organised. However, school leaders have accurately recognised that it is not sufficiently balanced in content. This limits opportunities for pupils to deepen their knowledge and understanding of a range of worldviews and faiths. The curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to demonstrate a strong understanding of the way Christianity is lived out. The school benefits from accessing training and support from the diocese, enhancing staff confidence in RE. Displays throughout the school showcase the active engagement of pupils with RE. These highlight its significant contribution to pupils' cultural awareness and the care and acceptance they show to each other.

Information

Address	Spofforth Church of England Primary School, School Lane, Harrogate HG3 1BA		
Date	21 January 2025	URN	121592
Type of school	voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	103
Diocese/District	Leeds		
MAT/Federation	Federation of Follifoot and Spofforth Church of England Primary Schools		
Headteacher	Robert Lakin (Executive Headteacher)		
Chair of Governors	Emma Booth and Marianne Tharby (Co-Chairs)		
Inspector	Steve Wheelerton		