

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Yarmouth Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Mill Road, Yarmouth, PO41 0RA
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p style="text-align: center;">Achieving Together for a Brighter Future</p> <p>The purpose of the Federation is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives. Our vision is for high standards and good behaviour within a culture of mutual respect by nurturing kindness, tolerance and acceptance of diversity. Christian values: Respect, Determination and Relationships.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision ensures that Christian love permeates all aspects of Yarmouth. The deeply embedded values, rather than the vision, are understood and articulated exceptionally well by the school community. • There is hope for the communities that the school serves, as pupils and adults aspire to achieve together for a brighter future. Vulnerable pupils are exceptionally well supported to flourish socially, emotionally, and academically. All pupils flourish in an environment that imparts mutual respect, determination, and models positive relationships. • All members of the school are treated with dignity and respect. Differences are fully embraced and celebrated within the strong sense of family and Christian love at Yarmouth. • Worship is inclusive and invitational, with a strong expression of respect, determination and positive relationships. This effective provision is continuously developed as pupils are actively engaged in its planning, leading and monitoring. • In religious education (RE), teachers use a range of strategies to develop pupils' understanding of Christianity. Pupils' understanding of different religions and worldviews is not as well developed.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and develop the existing school vision with the whole school community to ensure that it is theologically rooted in Christianity. • Refine and develop rich learning experiences in the RE curriculum. This will enable pupils to build secure knowledge and understanding of various religions and worldviews.



Inspection findings

Committed leaders ensure that a vision rooted in Christian love is the driving force that enables all to flourish. This is particularly evident in the plans and process being undertaken to relocate the school to a new site this year. Significant changes to the context of the school are fully embraced and navigated with deeply embedded values at the centre. Christian love welcomes a significant number of pupils who have joined Yarmouth following the closure of a local school. Respect, determination, and harmonious relationships are woven throughout every policy and procedure. Everyone speaks with confidence about the cherished Christian values. Staff are determined that pupils will flourish socially, emotionally, and academically. Leaders rightly identify the need to review the school's vision currently. A theologically rooted Christian vision needs to develop to enhance the provision as the context changes. Whilst members of the school articulate the values very well, they do not have such a robust understanding of the existing vision. Leaders ensure that plans are in place to make the imminent move as smooth as possible. They have begun the review process of the school's Christian vision as the context changes. The school community lives out the vision and associated values in the happy, trusting, and honest relationships that exist.

Federation governors effectively hold senior leaders to account and know the school exceptionally well. As a result, leaders create a loving environment in which pupils can achieve their full potential. Robust monitoring of the school as a Church school ensures that pupils flourish spiritually and academically. A shared understanding of spirituality is seamlessly deployed across the federation. Pupils, as well as staff, articulate this approach and note the impact it has on their spiritual growth and journey. As a result, opportunities for pupils' spiritual growth are both planned for and spontaneous. Leaders live out the vision by striving for everyone at Yarmouth to have the best life chances. The school community shares a sense of determination. As one pupil said, 'our mistakes are expected, inspected and respected'. This mantra reflects the vision exceptionally well.

With the influx of pupils joining the school, leaders ensure the needs of everyone are well provided for and met. Pupils flourish academically because of the care and individual attention the staff provides. There is a consistent application of the school's vision and associated values in decision making processes. The vision unifies staff within a culture of Christian love. This is effectively modelled by leaders. Yarmouth is a fully inclusive and deeply nurturing school. Dedicated and well-trained staff ensure no one is left behind. Across the federation provision for wellbeing and mental health are exceptional. This has a lasting impact on people across the school. Those joining from other schools make rapid progress from their starting points. Equally, adults flourish because the vision unites them in a shared purpose. Parents rightly praise leaders for the inclusivity of Yarmouth. All are respected with dignity as uniquely created by an all-loving God. Policies and procedures reflect this.

The sense of community is palpable. The culture of mutual respect through nurturing kindness, tolerance, and acceptance of diversity is strong. Consequently, pupils behave exceptionally well. Occasional concerns are dealt with swiftly by leaders within the framework of the vision. The Christian vision inspires leaders to ensure pastoral care wraps around all pupils and adults. Social action projects ensure that all pupils have regular experiences of being advocates for change, locally, nationally, and globally. Careful consideration is placed on charitable organisations that are learnt about and supported. Pupils are active advocates



for change and are rightly proud of their achievements in tackling the exploitation of the natural world. Pupils are empowered to respectfully challenge injustice.


Raising pupils' aspirations is a priority for leaders. Staff seize every opportunity to plan exciting, thought-provoking, and challenging experiences for pupils within the island community and on the mainland. Pupils are well prepared for the next stage in their education. Senior leaders are exceptionally conscious of the community. Visitors inspire pupils, as they share their professional lives. Leaders ensure that every pupil and adult raises aspirations for their learning journey, spiritual development and career progression. A respectful approach to global links is being pioneered in partnership with the local church community. Links to a school in Ghana are celebrated and ensure pupils in Yarmouth learn first-hand what life is like for others around the world. This supports an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide faith.

Collective worship is constructed to explore the Christian vision and associated values. The strong sense of community is enhanced as each class brings the cross and candle to the hall for worship. Respect, determination, and positive relationships are skillfully woven throughout times of reflection and prayer. Whole school and class-based worship offer a range of experiences that explore Bible stories in age-appropriate ways. Consequently, pupils have a secure understanding of the teachings of Jesus, the Christian belief in the Trinity and church festivals. Worship is fully inclusive. Moments of prayer and reflection are invitational. Pupils confidentially lead spontaneous prayer throughout the day. Consequently, everyone can participate. Partnerships with the local church are strong and long-lasting. Clergy-led worship is loved by pupils who refer to ideas and concepts that are explored. This richly supports the spiritual development of pupils and adults. Pupils are keen to lead worship. They actively evaluate and make suggestions for developing it. However, there are some missed opportunities for pupils to lead elements of whole school worship.

The RE curriculum weaves together the locally agreed syllabus with additional high quality learning resources. The values, as opposed to vision, are woven into the curriculum. RE holds a prioritised position in the timetable and is well led across the federation. Training from the diocese supports this, ensuring that it is an impactful subject. Pupils have a significant grasp of Christianity. They demonstrate this in conversations and written work. However, learning about other religions and worldviews is not always comparable. Pupils' knowledge and understanding can become confused across different faiths. Sometimes learning does not engage deeply enough with the concepts of belonging to such traditions.

Christian love is woven throughout Yarmouth like a golden thread. By achieving together, the school community is well prepared for a brighter future.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good
	<p>Through regular monitoring, leaders' assessment of RE teaching and learning is accurate. In lessons, pupils make good progress and work is of a good standard. Tailored support enables vulnerable pupils to achieve well in RE. Units of work on Christianity are detailed and enable pupils to flourish in their learning. However, the curriculum does not consistently ensure that the impact is long-lasting when learning about other religions and worldviews.</p>		
Information			
School	Yarmouth Church of England VA Primary School	Inspection date	8 November 2022
URN	118194	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided
Diocese/District	Portsmouth; Winchester	Pupils on roll	137
Headteacher	Elizabeth Grainger		
Chair of Governors	Carla Bradshaw		
Inspector	Toby Long	No.	896