

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Castle Acre Church of England Primary Academy

Vision

Our Christian vision is rooted in theology, centred round biblical texts, Matthew Ch 5 V16 which gives our motto “Let your light Shine” and Luke Ch 10 V25-37, the Good Samaritan. “Let your Light Shine”

Be the best person that you can be: be captain of your own learning – responsible for yourself and act yourself to develop your own learning. Be a good crew member, being kind to others and helping your Team to succeed; be hopeful for others and forgive people. As the Good Samaritan did, be courageous and true to your values and help everyone no matter who they are. Know that you are known and loved for who you are and know that you have much to offer our school and wider community.

Castle Acre Church of England Primary Academy 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

- Castle Acre lives out its vision for all to shine, within and to the community it serves. The vision is underpinned by the values shown by the Good Samaritan in the Bible story on which it is based. These are demonstrated through the school’s welcoming and inclusive ethos.
- In line with the vision for pupils to shine, a range of opportunities are available to develop their talents through the curriculum and activities outside it. These encourage pupils to be courageous learners and be proud of what they achieve.
- Collective worship is valued as a special time when the community comes together to celebrate its identity as a Church school. It is a time to reflect on the Christian vision and values and how they apply to their daily lives. The circles of reflection are a special time of worship which enables adults and pupils to spend time in calm contemplation and develop their own thoughts and beliefs. This supports spiritual flourishing.
- Pupil leaders make an authentic contribution to enabling their peers to shine. They live out the vision by demonstrating the values of the Good Samaritan, including courage and compassion. Inspired to be change makers through proposing and acting on ideas, they improve the lives of others.
- Strong partnerships with the other two schools in the Nar Valley Federation, the Diocese of Norwich and the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academy Trust (DNEAT) expand the range of opportunities available to pupils and adults. This helps the school to live out its vision for adults and pupils to let their lights shine.

Development Points

- Broaden the scope of the religious education (RE) curriculum. This is so that pupils learn about and understand that Christianity is a diverse world religion, both nationally and globally.
- Promote spiritual development by planning explicit and distinct opportunities within the curriculum and outside it. Ensure there is a shared language so that adults and pupils can confidently recognise and discuss their experiences.



Inspection Findings

Castle Acre school is a focal point for the village and surrounding district. Pupils attend from a wide area, and the vision from the story of the Good Samaritan illustrates the welcoming and inclusive ethos of the school. Developing strong relationships is key to this. Ensuring that adults and pupils are included means they feel valued for who they are. There is an 'embedded understanding' that they can and will contribute positively to the life of the school, through their actions and behaviour. Thus, they emulate the values shown by the Good Samaritan. They are nurtured and encouraged to do so, which builds up trust and strengthens a sense of community. Through aligning with the Christian vision of DNEAT (Proverbs 24), the school is proud to be a distinct yet important part of the DNEAT community, benefiting from the shared understanding this brings.

The curriculum is designed to include 'real experiences' to engage pupils, encouraging them to look outwards and raise their aspirations. A range of opportunities are available for them to explore new skills and find ways to shine. Leaders are ambitious for pupils to succeed. Clubs and activities are provided to develop and celebrate pupils' skills and for them to be successful. As a result, their confidence and self-belief grow, and their light shines more brightly. Provision for pupils with additional needs or those who are vulnerable is a strength. Staff know pupils well and bespoke support enhances learning for any pupil who needs extra help. A unit for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities has recently been established. This serves a need within the locality and enables the school to fulfil the welcome to others shown by the Good Samaritan. Experiences of awe and wonder are planned within the curriculum. However, these are not consistently promoted, recognised or understood. As a result, some chances for spiritual development are missed. Strategies to develop a language to share what spirituality looks like at Castle Acre are not embedded. This limits discussion when opportunities for spiritual development arise spontaneously.

Collective worship reinforces the vision and values through Bible stories and song. Pupils and staff value coming together as a community in a peaceful, safe space. Following the Anglican tradition, they greet each other using familiar words, creating a sense of fellowship. By invitation, each person is able to take part in a way that is comfortable for them. They are inspired to act on stories they hear which are based on the value of the term. For example, by finding ways to show respect to each other and to God's world. Circles of reflection provide a different and powerful form of worship. Entering in silence, adults and pupils are invited to spend time in silent contemplation and then share deep thoughts and ideas. This contributes to their spiritual development and the formation of their own beliefs. Clergy regularly lead collective worship, enriching pupils' and adults' experience of different styles of worship. Partnerships with the church are strong. For example, pupils are proud to play their part in church and community life by representing the school at Remembrance services.

Living up to the vision and values creates a culture of trust. Adults and pupils value each other and provide help to one another when needed, especially in times of challenge. When pupils recognise that someone needs support, they provide it so that their peers can shine again. They compare this to the actions of the Good Samaritan, creating an ethos where people feel included. Policies reflect the vision. For example, the behaviour policy promotes reconciliation and fresh starts, in line with the story of the Good Samaritan. Pupil voice is significant within the school, contributing to a culture of respect where the community lives well together.

Pupils learn about leadership and responsibility through undertaking roles such as values or eco ambassadors. However, everybody is encouraged to shine as a change maker, like the Good Samaritan, and become agents of positive change. Supporting charities is seen as one way to challenge injustice, by funding improvements in the



lives of others. However, pupils are taught that although raising money to affect change is important, personal action and responsibility is considered more significant. Consequently, they believe that being kind and being a good friend matters. Likewise, standing up for something you believe is key to making things better for those around them. To achieve this, they confidently attend governors' and parish council meetings to put their point of view and ask for assistance. The principle of leaving a legacy is understood. To achieve this, pupils plan projects such as a quiet area or tuck shop, the impact of which continues after they have left the school. Thus, they leave behind something positive for their friends and the adults who help them. Positive and strong partnerships between the schools in the Nar Valley Federation are instrumental in enabling Castle Acre to live out its vision. Each school is mindful of its responsibility to the others. Through the deployment of staff across the federation, pupils benefit from shared expertise. This also provides opportunities for staff 'to shine' by using their professional skills for the benefit of others.

The RE curriculum is carefully crafted to cover a balance of Christianity, a range of world faiths, and religious and non-religious world beliefs. The school benefits from training through the diocese and trust. The RE lead disseminates this to staff so that they are kept up to date with developments in RE. This leads to positive changes in practice and skills development. Pupils enjoy RE, particularly discussions and activities around enquiry questions that challenge them. Welcome and respect are shown to those who hold views which are not pupils' own. However, they do not consistently learn about the diversity of practice and belief in the way Christians worship both nationally and globally. Pupils are unclear of the differences between denominations or how Christianity differs in practice around the world. Federation RE days enrich the curriculum through music and art, enabling pupils to shine their light to others in creative ways.

The RE lead monitors the quality of teaching to ensure that it remains at least good. Work in books is of high quality. Staff new to the school receive induction on teaching RE so that expectations are clear. Pupils build on their prior knowledge and skills and make at least expected progress from their starting points. However, the complexity of planning for mixed age classes does not always allow some areas to be covered at greater depth. Pupils recall knowledge of Christianity and show understanding of what they have learnt. They use self-assessment to mark their own work. The judgments they make about their levels of achievement are confirmed by staff through moderation. This ensures that assessments are accurate, and pupils understand their next steps in learning.

Information

Address	Back Lane, Castle Acre, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE32 7AR		
Date	20 November 2024	URN	142467
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	73
Diocese/District	Norwich		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Norwich Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Anne Neary		
Head of School	Emma Spaul		
Chair of Governors	Bruce Gordon		
Inspector	Rachel Beeson		