

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Sheepy Magna Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Vision

We are a community that is together; one that nurtures, values and encourages all the children within our care; we are a family that provides every child with enriching opportunities to shine. Most of all, we work together as one to ensure that everyone is cherished and supported to succeed and flourish. We have a strong belief that all things are possible, if there is faith, hope and love.

Psalm 133:1 “Oh how wonderful, how pleasing it is when all God’s people come together as one.”

Luke 10:27 “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Matthew 19:26 “With God, all things are possible.”

Strengths

- The Christian vision at Sheepy Magna creates a welcoming and inclusive community where there is a deep sense of purpose. As a result, pupils and adults flourish.
- Strong partnerships with the local church enrich the lives of the whole school community. They are key in enabling spiritual flourishing through collective worship.
- Leaders have created a culture where each person is seen as a unique individual. This enables pupils and adults to feel known, valued and loved.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is well-planned and well-sequenced. Consequently, pupils develop good understanding. Effective subject leadership ensures that the curriculum meets the needs of pupils, who learn well and respond enthusiastically.

Development Points

- Map opportunities for, and embed, spiritual development across the curriculum. This is to broaden pupils’ understanding of spirituality to extend beyond what they see in nature.
- Empower pupils to be leaders of change on wider issues of importance to them, beyond their own community. This is to help them to see themselves as global citizens who can make a difference in the world.



Inspection Findings

Sheepy Magna is an inclusive school where pupils are cherished and supported. A focus on celebration of their individual gifts and talents is at the heart of leaders' approach. This commitment makes a daily difference to their lives. Carefully chosen values, such as care for others, support this. Driven by the vision, staff foster a culture where pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), thrive. They rapidly develop in confidence as a result. Parents value the way in which pupils are known and loved. The school is supported well by governors who contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the school's effectiveness. This enables leaders to make thoughtful decisions, for example, around curriculum design. As a result of this, pupils experience rich and creative learning opportunities.

The curriculum is aspirational. Leaders ensure that staff are well-supported and that they have the knowledge and skills they need to help pupils succeed. Care is taken to make sure that a diverse range of people are represented in the books and resources that pupils use. This helps them to celebrate their own identity as well as develop an understanding of others. Opportunities for learning in nature at Sheepy Magna are inspirational. Pupils enjoy the outdoor environment, including the Peace Garden, as a chance to engage with God's creation. Both staff and pupils see the natural world as being key to their spiritual development. Pupils grow their own vegetables and learn to cook them, appreciating food and where it comes from. These activities encourage them to develop a sense of awe and wonder. At present, pupils' understanding of spirituality is limited to that which they encounter through nature. Wider mapping of opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually across the curriculum would further enhance this provision. Pupils are offered a broad range of extra-curricular opportunities. Support staff take responsibility for leading some of these clubs, developing their skills and confidence as well as pupils'.

Collective worship is an uplifting and joyful part of the school day. This daily rhythm of prayer and worship positively shapes pupils' experience. They express how times of reflection are 'soothing' and help them to overcome challenges. One pupil said, 'It feels like the weight from my shoulders is gone.' Collective worship has a significant impact on their spiritual flourishing. It is meticulously planned with the needs of the school community in mind. Interactive elements, drama, costumes and props enhance provision so that it is engaging and inspiring. Pupils in the worship crew encourage others to contribute with enthusiasm. Close partnerships with the local church and Open the Book team further strengthen this aspect of school life. Older pupils act as 'buddies' for the youngest, accompanying them to church for special occasions. These pupils often go on to form deep bonds, caring for one another even after they have left the school. Year 6 pupils speak of their delight at seeing their 'buddies' participate in, and learn from, collective worship. In this way, it is inclusive and impactful. Pupils add a wooden sheep to the display in each classroom to show that worship has inspired them. Adults listen to pupils' feedback about what has moved them and made them think. This means that leaders know what sorts of activities are helping them to develop spiritually. Through strong partnership with the local church, pupils understand a range of Anglican traditions, including the Eucharist.

Loving relationships exemplify the vision at Sheepy Magna. Pupils and adults are proud to be a part of this harmonious community. They appreciate the open and understanding approach that characterises the school. There is thoughtful provision for good mental health and wellbeing. When adults face difficulties, strong bonds, underpinned by the vision, pull people together in mutual support. Pupils treat each other with kindness and compassion, as modelled to them by staff. This can be seen at breaktimes, when pupils of all ages play well together. As a small rural school, it is central to community life. Parental views confirm this. Care and concern for pupils and their families is deep-rooted. Groups, including chicken crew (who take care of the hens) and school council, provide opportunities for leadership development and confidence building. As a result, pupils develop a keen sense of responsibility for themselves, each other and the environment.

The Christian vision encourages pupils to 'work together as one'. Empowered by this, they collaborate to seek out ways to help the environment and natural world. They have a strong sense of stewardship and are passionate about taking action to reduce pollution and damage to the planet. Through the curriculum, pupils develop an awareness of issues of justice. They share this with their families and participate in fundraising



initiatives. By taking part in pupil-led committees, they have their say on the things that matter to them. This concern about issues of justice also reaches into the local community. For example, pupils send greetings cards to people living in the village and support local projects organised by the church. However, they do not yet see themselves as being able to effect change beyond their own community. This limits pupils' ability to engage with issues of justice in the wider world.

RE at Sheepy Magna is creative, engaging and inclusive. It is highly valued by pupils. They respond positively, exploring the subject through art, drama, discussion and written responses. Consequently, they develop a good understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews. The curriculum is well-planned and sequenced and allows pupils to explore deep questions successfully. They develop secure knowledge and skills and older pupils explain complex topics, such as cosmology, with clarity. Pupils speak with confidence about what they have learned. Thoughtful monitoring and evaluation ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of pupils. Governors play a key role in this. An engaging curriculum, enriched by visits and guests, is the result. Thoughtful planning means that pupils of all faiths and none are represented in what is studied. They are given the chance to share their views as part of their lessons. This greatly enhances their understanding of others.

Information

Address	Sheepy Magna Church of England Primary School, Main Road, Sheepy Magna, Atherstone, CV9 3QR.		
Date	18 September 2024	URN	120158
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	105
Diocese	Leicester		
Headteacher	Alison Field		
Chair of Governors	David Wright		
Inspector	Lauren Nicholson-Ward		