

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Mordiford CofE Primary	
Address	The School House, Mordiford, HR1 4LW
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

School's vision
'Treasure each individual' is rooted in our Christian ethos and borne out in the individualised and nurturing care students are given. Our aim to nurture, inspire and flourish is grounded in the Parable of the Mustard seed.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Christian vision has a positive impact on the lives of pupils and adults so that all ages grow and flourish. Monitoring of the vision is not embedded and, as a result, it is less evident in school improvement plans. • The curriculum is rich and fully harnesses the power of outdoor learning. Lessons inspire pupils to be agents of change in the wider world, building on established international links. • Nourishing spiritual growth is offered across the curriculum and wider school day. Staff are less confident to articulate their understanding of what spirituality means in this community. • Religious education (RE) known as 'religion and worldviews' inspires pupils. Their learning of the range of topics studied is excellent and so the subject is highly effective in widening their understanding of our diverse world. • Collective worship is a treasured part of every day. Acts of worship progressively deepen adults' and pupils' knowledge of Christian examples and teaching
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders, including governors, to embed systems to monitor the impact of the vision so that their work more explicitly informs the ongoing development of the school as a Church school. • Staff and leaders to consider a shared definition and vocabulary around spirituality to enable staff to more confidently plan for spiritual development through worship and across the curriculum.

Inspection findings

Mordiford school is in a period of transition. A refreshed Christian vision is built on the much-loved motto 'Treasure each individual'. This focuses on the mandate to nurture, inspire and flourish, following Jesus' example. With newly chosen Christian roots in the Parable of the Mustard seed, it is clear that pupils and adults embrace and are enthused by the motto, vision and values, although some are unsure which statements are which. Allied with the core Christian values of love, compassion and respect, leaders continue to embed the changes. There is some confusion between parents and pupils as to which of the several phrases or words take priority in driving the school. However, the vision and its Bible roots are well-considered and accurately reflect the aim for powerful growth from small beginnings, as befits this relatively small, rural school.

Leaders at governance and school level are united in their commitment to the school. They safeguard the Christian foundations and engage with some aspects of specialist support from the diocese. Governors provide appropriate support and challenge, guiding the direction of the school. For example, taking care to recruit governors and staff who understand and support the Christian ethos. Self-evaluation and development plans reference aspects of the Christian foundation. Formal systems to monitor the impact of the vision are at an early stage, as would be expected when a vision is new. Plans for the future of the school are ambitious and take full account of the Christian foundation. As an academy which is its own trust, leaders are aware that working with other schools that share their Christian outlook is the way forward.

Learning is exciting. It regularly embraces the wonderful outdoor opportunities such a rural setting offers. From making own grown apple juice to 'forest school' activities, pupils benefit from a creative, rich and engaging curriculum. Topics skilfully weave together themes of interest to pupils, for example environmental issues. After-school sports and creative arts extend pupils' learning. A memorable RE activity was to design and make a 'better world cake'. Teachers make learning meaningful and thought-provoking, thus living out the vision to nurture and inspire their pupils. Motivated by their studies, many pupils seek and campaign for justice. For example, they support the local food bank and are concerned about the war in Ukraine. 'Children in Need' celebrations combined with an 'International day' focus. Mordiford broadens pupils' horizons through its established international links. Pupils identify issues, write letters, make posters, persuade their parents to reduce carbon footprint and are courageous in speaking out where they see injustice. In this way, pupils act to change their own lives and the lives of others.

Spiritual growth features across the curriculum and school day. Many experiences foster a sense of awe and wonder. This is particularly so when learning takes place outdoors. Staff have an enviable depth of expertise and skill in 'forest school' activities. At this time, staff lack confidence to articulate what spirituality means to them. This limits the depth of spiritual opportunities across the curriculum. Nevertheless, pupils know that all people are inherently spiritual, if not necessarily religious. A pupil commented that 'spirituality is finding the key to a better world'.

Religion and worldviews is an outstanding curriculum subject. It makes a significant contribution to securing the vision of flourishing. A highly experienced and gifted teacher leads the subject and teaches from Year 1 to Year 6. She ensures learning is secure and that pupils develop skills to ask and respond to 'big questions'. Pupils are enthusiastic about the subject. They value it and talk with confidence of their learning. Pupils' work is of high quality. They develop an extensive vocabulary with which to talk of their learning about Christianity and the other religions and worldviews studied. 'God is eternal and this is seen

in the Sikh as well as Christian religion' said a pupil as they explained a symbol in Sikhism.

Nourishing relationships shape the school. Pupils and adults treat each other with courtesy and sensitivity. Those who need additional support find this offered with compassion and love. Testament to the nurturing ethos is the fact that pupils who have transferred from other schools settle quickly and thrive. This is due to the positive role model provided by all staff. Parents are warmly appreciative of how staff care for them as well as their children, citing the regular communication from school as reassuring. Home and school work together in a spirit of mutual trust. The headteacher is highly regarded and known for her interest in developing the school as a hub in the local community. Families and villagers, several of whom are former pupils, delighted in attending a festive wreath making evening held in school. The impact of this school often endures beyond Year 6.

Collective worship is an important part of every day. Pupils and adults treasure their time to gather together. The pattern of worship ensures there is a focus on the Bible, life and teaching of Jesus. Pupils have a good understanding of Anglican traditions of worship as a result of the close links with the parish church. Worship is thoughtfully planned to mark the main seasons of the Church's calendar. Pupils love the quiet and space when they visit the parish church. Support from the vicar enriches the experience of worship. Staff and pupils speak with fondness of his involvement and openness to explore matters of faith. Links with an evangelical Christian church in the city enable pupils to be aware that there is diversity within Christianity. Pupils, notably the 'worship crew' write and share their own, often moving prayers and reflections. Pupils are invited to pray or reflect as they wish, in worship, at lunch and at home time. Worship is inclusive and helps them understand that 'we are all equal but not all the same'. Singing is tuneful and joyful. Younger pupils are supported to join in with actions. The strong Bible focus of worship leads staff to comment that 'we learn too, I didn't know that before!' This evidences the positive engagement and enjoyment of all ages present.

It is clear that Mordiford continues to thrive as a Church school. Pupils understand that they are like the many birds that may visit the Mustard tree grown from a small seed. As one said, 'tree branches are like a brain, tiny ideas can grow.'

Information			
School	Mordiford CofE Primary	Inspection date	2 December 2022
URN	140464	VC/VA/Academy	
Diocese/District	Hereford	Pupils on roll	157
Headteacher	Sue Warmington		
Chair of Governors	Christine Harris		
Inspector	Allyson Taylor	No.	768