

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hampstead Norreys Church of England Primary School

Vision

The mustard seed was the smallest of seed but it grew into a huge plant (Matthew 12, 31-32) – Be the best you can be!

Hampstead Norreys Church of England 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 Christian vision based on the parable of the mustard seed, is central to its ethos, guiding daily interactions and driving the work of the school.
- The rich and varied worship life of the school serves the whole community well, providing opportunities for learning, reflection and celebration.
- Leaders demonstrate an unswerving determination and commitment to enhance the wellbeing of pupils and adults. This is built on a foundation of trusting relationships across the school community and beyond.
- Staff are ambitious for children to be 'ready for the world that is waiting for them'. Staff are committed to equipping children with the necessary skills to become independent agents for change, both locally and globally.

Development Points

- Provide identified opportunities within the religious education (RE) curriculum for pupils to develop their understanding of Christianity as a diverse global faith.
- Plan explicit opportunities which enrich pupils' spiritual flourishing within the curriculum. This is so that pupils and adults grow in confidence to use the school's shared spiritual understanding and language.



Inspection Findings

The well-understood bible-inspired vision is a golden thread running through Hampstead Norreys school. The teaching of the mustard seed suits this small rural school. It forms the foundation of the school's strong ambition for pupils, staff and families. Leaders at all levels articulate decisions made with the vision at the heart. Families find understanding and support here. The provision for individual pupils allows pupils to flourish. The monitoring of religious education and the school's Christian vision by governors is embedded within school practice. There is a developing approach to evaluating provision that informs ongoing improvement. Governors care deeply for the school. One governor aptly described it as 'a small school with a big outlook'.

Through careful evaluation, leaders make thoughtful changes to improve learning experiences. Wise decision-making ensures that pupils experience inspiring and creative topics. Lessons are engaging and tailored to different abilities. Leaders have created a whole school approach to spirituality. However, a clear understanding of its intent and implementation is only at an early stage. Careful adjustments support pupils effectively, ensuring that they can access learning. Mixed-age classes are celebrated, allowing pupils to form close relationships across the school. Through mentoring, older pupils support younger ones, fostering a strong sense of community. Collaboration between year groups enhances social and academic development. Pupils feel valued and included in the varied aspects of school life. The wider curriculum enables pupils to live out the school vision. It is revisited regularly. A range of extra-curricular opportunities allows pupils to grow in different ways.

Worship is carefully planned, culminating in the parable of the talents awards worship at the end of the week. A parent shared how a recent Lent-focused worship encouraged giving back rather than giving something up. Inspired by this, her daughter chose to litter pick in the village. The school benefits from a strong relationship with the local church. Pupils speak positively about the Year 6-led acts of worship held regularly in church. At times, governors attend collective worship and talk with pupils about their experiences. Acts of worship guide the actions of both adults and pupils, helping them live well together. A group of pupils shared how a recent worship theme of forgiveness influenced decisions they have made and the positive impact that has on friendships. Engagement from pupils is encouraged and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are sensitively supported to take part. Worship provides pupils with meaningful opportunities to reflect on biblical stories and their relevance to the school's values of respect, perseverance, courage and friendship. These shared experiences enhance spiritual growth and promote the wellbeing of participants. This enables pupils and adults to flourish within a supportive and nurturing atmosphere. Worship fosters kindness, reflection and a sense of community across the school.

Leaders show strong determination and commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of pupils and adults. Coaching and mentoring is a key aspect throughout the school. The Christian vision inspires this school community creating a culture where all feel cared for and heard. Wellbeing is a priority, and support is embedded in daily school life. Parents and carers appreciate the strength of the school community and the care shown to every pupil. They notice how new pupils settle quickly and thrive in this nurturing environment. Pupils show kindness and empathy towards one another. Older pupils take pride in looking out for their younger peers. Staff feel valued and supported in their roles. The school fosters a sense of belonging, ensuring that pupils and adults part of a supportive and loving community.

Staff are ambitious for pupils to be 'ready for the world that is waiting for them'. There is a growing understanding of injustice and the need for change. Pupils have opportunities to develop skills that empower them as



independent agents for change. The school is building a strong foundation for social responsibility, both locally and globally. A wonderful example is the 'fantastic females' unit, where pupils are inspired to write to their local politician about the national gender pay gap. The eco council has focused on raising awareness about fast fashion and its impact. Pupils have also taken the lead in supporting the local food bank. These initiatives show their commitment to making a difference. The school's vision creates a culture of high expectations and the importance of growth. Pupil leadership is exemplary, with active participation across the school. They embrace opportunities to take on roles such as eco club members, little angels, pupil mentors, little oaks and anti-bullying ambassadors. Pupils feel empowered to develop confidence, leadership, and a sense of purpose.

RE is highly valued by both pupils and staff and holds a central place in the curriculum. It is led by a passionate and knowledgeable RE leader who ensures that lessons and experience days are engaging and meaningful. Staff have high expectations, creating an environment where pupils are challenged and supported in their learning. The rolling programme is carefully considered and continues to evolve to meet pupils' needs. Leaders work hard to make the RE curriculum both exciting and challenging. Pupils experience a range of religions and traditions, deepening their understanding of different worldviews. However, curriculum opportunities are not provided for pupils to develop their understanding of Christianity as a global faith. From an early age, pupils are encouraged to express thoughts and opinions in a safe, supportive environment. As a result, older pupils approach their learning with confidence, critical thinking, and a growing sense of their own beliefs. By fostering curiosity and respect, RE is equipping pupils with the knowledge and skills to engage with the world around them. Leaders understand that flourishing looks different for every child and tailor support accordingly. Pupils, especially those with SEND, are cherished and encouraged to 'be the best they can be'.

Information

Address	Newbury Hill, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham RG18 0TR		
Date	13 March 2025	URN	109964
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	54
Diocese	Oxford		
Federation	The Federation of Hampstead Norreys CE and The Illsleys Primary Schools		
Headteacher	Kate House		
Chair of Governors	Mark Browne		
Inspector	Rebecca Bone		