

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hildenborough Church of England Primary School	
Address	Riding Lane, Hildenborough, TN11 9HY
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
'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me', (Philippians 4:13) so that I can be the best that I can be, for myself, for others and for God.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian vision is biblically rooted in the verse from Philippians. The vision, and the associated values, are woven throughout the whole of school life driving decision-making at all levels. This impacts positively on everyone within the school community. • The school is grounded in genuine love and kindness for each other. The carefully tailored and thoughtful pastoral support for pupils ensures all are nurtured. There is a tangible sense of safety and hope, allowing all to flourish. • The well-planned curriculum, driven by the vision, provides time for pupils to think and reflect on moral and ethical issues. This supports pupils' spiritual development. Opportunities to develop courageous advocacy as part of a global community are less well developed. • Rich and broad experiences in collective worship provide pupils and staff with opportunities to reflect which impacts on their daily lives. There are insufficient opportunities for feedback. • Pupils talk enthusiastically and knowledgeably about religious education (RE). The curriculum content does not provide enough opportunities for pupils to make connections between different areas of knowledge in RE.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the RE curriculum to provide intentional opportunities for pupils to make connections in their learning therefore improving the quality of their understanding. • Inspired by the Christian vision, broaden opportunities for the whole school community to be able to act as courageous advocates for social justice in a global community. • Embed and expand strategies for the evaluation of collective worship to deepen the positive impact for all who experience it.



Inspection findings

Hildenborough Church of England Primary is a school deeply committed to the wellbeing and development of all in its care. The Christian vision of aspiring to 'do all things through Christ who strengthens me' is embedded into the daily life of the school. School leaders have ensured this drives all aspects of strategic planning, policy and procedure. Bold decisions, such as the development of forest school, are carefully thought through to ensure they are driven by the Christian vision. Governors and school leaders thoughtfully monitor all aspects of the school's vision providing effective challenge and support leading to school improvement. The vision and associated values are understood and articulated by all members of the school community, demonstrating how they underpin the 'Hildenborough way'. Governors, staff and parents speak of the positive impact this has on adults and pupils flourishing.

The strong bonds between the school, the church and the community create a supportive network for all involved. Events such as class question and answer sessions with the vicar and the school planting trees in the churchyard build positive relationships. Leaders' knowledge of all aspects of church school effectiveness has been enhanced through accessing high quality training from the Diocese of Rochester. Stemming from the vision, staff describe how they are supported to 'be the best they can be'. Well thought-out development opportunities provided by senior leaders have unlocked potential in staff that they themselves had not recognised. Families in the school appreciate the supportive and caring relationship between home and school, commenting on how staff often go 'above and beyond'. This encourages all pupils to strive towards their potential.

The school has an exceptionally inclusive and welcoming approach to overcoming challenges and supporting the needs of all pupils. This deeply and positively impacts the lives of all those in their care. Individualised support for pupils is carefully planned and driven by vision-led decision making. Therefore allowing all, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to succeed and flourish. Leaders at all levels have ensured that the broad and rich curriculum provides pupils with opportunities to debate moral and ethical issues. This supports pupils' character development well. Pupils talk excitedly about their learning and how it makes them think and reflect. The school has a carefully designed approach around pupils' spiritual development. Staff understand and implement this well. A wide range of inspiring clubs and extracurricular activities including Rocksteady music, Gymspire, gardening, cheerleading and craft are available across the school. This provides pupils with many opportunities to find out what they can excel at.

The Christian vision of being 'the best that I can be, for myself, for others and for God' resonates across the school. Pupils behave well, have a positive attitude towards their learning and are fully supportive and respectful of each other. Pupils play harmoniously together at playtimes. Older pupils relish roles of responsibility such as sports leaders and peer mediators, and younger pupils value the support. Pupils appreciate help with friendship difficulties from the well-trained pupil peer mediators commenting 'that it really works!'. Many younger pupils aspire to these roles creating an atmosphere of ambition and positivity.

There are thoughtfully planned curriculum opportunities for pupils to appreciate diversity and difference. These regularly provide pupils with the chance to address stereotypes and broaden their understanding of the world. Curriculum units such as Year 2 'powerful voices' and Year 6 'history of human rights' enable pupils to develop an understanding of injustice. This inspires pupils' sense of needing to be agents of social change. Pupils, led by the school council, regularly participate in actions to support local and national charities. There is a lack of opportunities for pupils to develop a worldwide perspective. The Hildenborough pupil



passport lists experiences and events in which all pupils will participate. This ensures all pupils benefit from a broad and holistic curriculum during their time in the school.

Collective worship at Hildenborough is joyful, safe and inclusive for all who experience it. Pupils and staff enjoy the opportunity to be together. There is time for sung worship, discussion, reflection and stillness. Through both visits to church and collective worship, pupils understand Anglican traditions. Collective worship is thoughtfully planned using the diocesan resource and enhanced with ideas directly driven by the school vision. Pupils know that there are always deep questions in collective worship to make them think. They explain how these inspire their thoughts and actions throughout the day in a positive way. The highly valued 'worship wardens' from Years 3 to 5 love their varied responsibilities and carry out their duties with care and diligence. Pupils value the opportunities for prayer and reflection across the school day commenting how 'it is helpful because there's not everything in our mind to distract us'. Collective worship reflections from a different class each week are shared on the school website. This furthers the positive impact of collective worship on the whole school community. Monitoring from staff and governors, along with feedback from worship wardens, supports improvements in collective worship. The broader school community as a whole is not involved in the evaluation and improvement of this important aspect of school life.

RE is valued by staff and pupils alike. The 'big question' at the start of each topic provides a focal point for pupils to be able to develop their ideas and understanding. As a result, pupils are able to offer opinions and share ideas respectfully with peers. The RE curriculum meets statutory and church requirements. Pupils' work includes a range of activities reflecting Christianity and world religions. The curriculum is not fully developed to include opportunities for pupils to make connections in their RE knowledge and understanding. As pupils move through the school, they demonstrate a growing understanding of religions and worldviews. Pupils are enthused by their work in RE and eagerly share their learning with their peers and others. There are carefully planned unit overview sheets outlining important vocabulary and knowledge. These are valued by pupils who talk about how they support their learning. The sheets help them with their vocabulary and pupils refer back to them when learning future topics. RE is monitored regularly using lesson observations, reviews of pupil work and interviews with pupils, leading to improvements. A secure system is in place enabling teachers to know how well pupils are progressing so they can support the next steps in learning.

Hildenborough is a school rooted in the determination that all can achieve through the strength of Christ - a place of love, safety and aspiration for everyone.



Information			
School	Hildenborough Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	4 May 2023
URN	118603	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Rochester	Pupils on roll	194
Headteacher	Ruth Ardrey		
Chair of Governors	Kathleen Hollings		
Inspector	Sarah Alexander	No.	2108