



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hawkhurst Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Fowlers Park, Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, TN18 4JJ
School vision	
<p style="text-align: center;">‘Let your light shine.’ - Matthew 5:16</p> <p>At Hawkhurst CE Primary we create an inclusive, friendly, safe and engaging learning environment, which is inspired by the example of Jesus, enabling children to navigate obstacles, fulfil their potential and extend their horizons.</p> <p>We value all members of our school community and encourage their individual talents and personalities so that each can shine in their own way.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawkhurst is a place where the deeply embedded Christian vision of “Let your light shine” is clearly lived out by leaders at all levels. This shapes both day to day and strategic decision making, having a transformational impact on the whole community. • School leaders and staff are deeply committed to serving this community. The work with pupils and their families ensures the flourishing of the whole child. This extends beyond academic success. • The vision has driven curriculum content, providing all pupils with the chance to shine. This enables them to develop their talents, self-confidence and become the best that they can be. • Inspired by the vision, there is a tangible atmosphere of hope and compassion for all. This established loving and inclusive culture enables pupils, staff and families to flourish. • Leaders have implemented an effective religious education (RE) curriculum. The subject meets the pupils’ needs, including those with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND). It effectively broadens pupils’ understanding of the world around them. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amplify pupil voice and the opportunities for action. This is so pupils can apply their understanding of injustice and become independent advocates for change. • Develop a shared understanding of spirituality across the curriculum, school environment and acts of worship. This is to enable pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision from Matthew’s gospel to ‘Let your light shine’ permeates all aspects of this school community. Leaders demonstrate an extensive understanding of the theological principles underpinning this. The accessible language of the vision ensures it is known, understood and lived out. It drives the policies, procedures and day to day life of the school. Leaders, staff and governors have worked diligently to embed this vision of hope and aspiration. Parents and pupils refer to Hawkhurst school as being a safe place. The time spent by staff building trusting relationships,</p>	

means the school is very well regarded in the community. Pupils value the associated values of community, compassion and hope. They eloquently explain how these help them to be the best version of themselves. School governors monitor the effectiveness of the Christian vision well. This ensures that it drives decision making and actions.

Staff have worked together to provide pupils with inspiring learning opportunities. The values of hope, community and compassion are explicitly woven through what the pupils learn. This results in a curriculum which is deeply rooted in the vision. Both outside of the classroom and extra-curricular opportunities are part of the learning at Hawkhurst. Examples such as forest school and brass band lessons broaden the experiences for pupils. Staff work tenaciously to find and provide for the talent in every pupil so that all have the chance to shine. There is a determination at Hawkhurst that all will succeed. Innovative approaches to support pupils include 'work experience' with the school caretaker and bespoke learning opportunities. Staff use wide ranging strategies to monitor the learning and its impact on the pupils. This results in a curriculum that works for all including those with SEND and other vulnerabilities. There has been some work to identify spiritual development opportunities within the school's curriculum. However, these are not explicit and the understanding around spirituality is underdeveloped. This means there is limited impact on both pupils and adults.

Leaders have planned how to ensure that pupils and staff get the most out of the daily collective worship. This joyful and uplifting time at the end of the school day is valued by those who attend. Parents appreciate the opportunity to be part of the celebration worship on a Friday. Leaders carefully plan the themes linking this into the Christian vision and values. This results in a positive impact on pupils' attitudes and behaviours across the school day. All who attend are welcomed to participate through singing and prayer. Planned moments of silence to reflect on Bible verses and the core theme of the day effectively provide opportunities for spiritual growth. Pupils are unable to explain the impact of these experiences. Those who have SEND are well-supported by adults and peers during worship. This enriches the way it is inclusive and creates a powerful sense of togetherness for the school community. Links with local clergy provide a wide variety of worship experiences for pupils. There is a regular pattern to this special time of the school day, including reference to the Christian understanding of God as three in one. Prayer spaces are provided around the building and grounds where pupils may choose to reflect. Worship leaders are in the early days of their professional development in this aspect of school life.

The determination among staff that all should shine has created a culture of support, love and aspiration. Every person is known well and a feeling of hope permeates the community. Consequently, school is a source of comfort and support during challenging times. There is a strong focus on supporting vulnerable pupils. Driven by the vision, leaders are swift to notice need, responding sensitively and with compassion. Staff go the extra mile. Good mental health and the wellbeing of pupils and adults are priority areas. The school actively supports the pupils in managing their emotions. The presence of 'calm corners' in each classroom is valued by those who use them. Pupils champion how adults are willing to make time to provide support. This results in them feeling valued and empowered. Staff feel listened to and supported by leaders, including governors. The school provides many opportunities for them to develop both professionally and personally. This ensures the Christian vision for all to shine equally applies for adults as it does for pupils.

Leaders have worked hard to build strong partnerships across the local area. The school set up a foodbank within its premises during lockdown in 2020 for its own community. This has grown exponentially and now serves the local community from the nearby Baptist church. Through the vision and linked values, pupils have a strong desire to support and help those around them. Working with local charities such as 'hands of hope' has ensured that families can access additional gardening and outdoor experiences. Within school, there are many opportunities to learn about aspects of injustice in the world and how to make ethical choices. These include the story of the

Windrush, climate change and renewable energy. Pupils are knowledgeable about this learning. However, they are less able to articulate how they can make independent ethical choices and be active agents for change.

RE is a subject that is valued by pupils and taught confidently by staff. Pupils value their lessons, eagerly sharing their knowledge and explaining how it is okay to have differing beliefs. The ‘big question’ at the start of each topic provides a focal point to be able to develop ideas and understanding. As a result, pupils are able to offer opinions and share ideas respectfully with peers. The RE curriculum provides pupils with opportunities to study a varied breadth of religions and worldviews. They appreciate the exciting blend of activities within lessons both inside and outside of their classroom. Leaders actively participate in the diocesan network ensuring discussion of best practice and continued professional development. This is shared successfully with staff impacting on RE across the school. A secure system is in place enabling teachers to know how well pupils are progressing. This is so they can support the next steps in learning.

The inspection findings indicate that Hawkhurst Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	9 May 2024	URN	118602
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	201
Diocese	Canterbury		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Jodi Hacker		
Chair	Simon Curd		
Inspector	Sarah Alexander	No.	2108