

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Sundridge and Brasted Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Church Road, Sundridge, TN14 6EA
School vision	
<p>At Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School, we believe that each of us is made in the image of God. God loves every one of us. We value every member of our community, and support them to shine!</p> <p>'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.'(Matthew 5: 14)</p> <p>We welcome everyone to our school community, whether of Christian faith, other faith or of no faith at all. We recognise that each person has unique gifts and seek to enable them to fulfil their God-given potential. 'See how very much our father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!' (1 John 3:1)</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servant-hearted leaders are committed to ensuring the light in everyone shines brightly. Their intentional, vision-driven decisions have a long-lasting, transformational impact on the community they serve. • Guided by the example of Jesus, staff share the same moral purpose. They know, nurture, and celebrate the inherent worth of every pupil. This has created a welcoming and safe school culture where families know they belong and are empowered to shine. • Shaped by the Christian vision, the curriculum has been designed to respond to the needs of the school context. The range of experiences open the pupils' eyes to appreciate diversity and difference. • Collective worship unites the school community. It provides freedom for creativity and space to reflect upon the messages shared. An appreciation of the world around them and relationships between one another are nurtured in this sacred worship space. • Religious education (RE) provides a safe space for pupils to challenge their thinking and discuss ideas. Carefully crafted lessons effectively explore the lives and practices of believers across a range of worldviews. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine a shared understanding of spirituality across the whole school. This is to ensure pupils flourish spiritually in all areas of the curriculum. • Extend the school's current out-working of the biblical narrative. This is to move it beyond 'shining a light' to inspire all to be a 'city on a hill'. This is to ensure pupils take responsibility for standing up and acting against situations of injustice. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Sundridge and Brasted supports and nurtures its family of little lights. Together they shine brighter. The Christian vision, 'you are the light of the whole world' is deeply embedded, shaping both policy</p>	

and practice.

Committed staff ensure pupils know they are loved, and that school is a safe place for them. Each person's uniqueness and inherent worth is cherished, bringing transformation and hope. Organised 'coffee drop ins', community events and church services bring connection and friendship to families. Parents champion the positive impact staff have on their children. As a result, relationships between parents and staff are well established and built on trust.

Leaders model the school's Christian values, by actively living them out. Their servant hearted attitude results in the needs of each pupil or adult being central to every decision. This has fostered a culture of openness. All know that help can be sought from one another, and mistakes are seen as part of learning. Staff wellbeing, family commitments and work life balance is championed here by leaders. As a result, staff shine because they are valued personally and empowered to develop professionally.

Governors are a regular visible presence in the school. Through monitoring, they bring challenge and robust discussion to board meetings. Governors support leaders whole-heartedly in their actions to enable pupils and adults to release their God-given potential. When considering whether to federate, they drew upon the vision. As a result of this decision, both sites have benefited positively. Sharing best practice develops staff and builds capacity. This has led to enhanced provision and improved outcomes for pupils. Through regular meetings and visits, the church school committee effectively evaluates the Christian character of Sundridge and Brasted. The committee continually works to strengthen the church and school partnership, which is flourishing. Sundridge and Brasted is well served and supported by the local priest and team. Their frequent visits to RE lessons, leadership of collective worship and forest school, nurture moments of spiritual reflection. Pastoral and practical assistance embraces local families, bringing relief and comfort.

Driven by the Christian vision, the curriculum has been carefully designed to meet the needs of those it serves. For example, new knowledge and experiences captivate pupils by taking them into a world beyond theirs. Carefully chosen texts spark conversations around situations of injustice and disadvantage. As a result, pupils are successfully equipped with the language needed to discuss difference and inequality. The school community acts with generosity and compassion to the many charities they support each year. However, this is often adult led. Pupils observe and reflect on situations of injustice, but opportunities for them to take action are limited. Consequently, some pupils do not have the opportunity to be independent advocates for positive change.

Learning is adapted to enable all to be successful, especially the most vulnerable. Dedicated staff walk alongside pupils to meet whatever needs they may present. Provision for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and exceptional nurture provision create an affirming learning environment. By knowing each pupil, unique talents and abilities are recognised and nurtured. As a result, pupils thrive because they believe in themselves and know what they are capable of.

Spiritual moments are weaved into the everyday. A strong sense of belonging and celebration of 'wow' experiences encapsulate how it is seen and lived out in school. Leaders have introduced a language for articulating spirituality using 'windows, mirrors and doors'. However, this is not developed across some areas of the curriculum. Consequently, some spiritual moments are not fully recognised or reflected upon.

The weekly pattern of collective worship is designed to nurture spirituality and reflective practice. For example, interactive worship provides a space to creatively respond individually to the biblical message. This sacred time brings the school community together. Through moments of laughter, celebration and deep contemplation, all consider the day gone by. The impact of worship is seen in

the way the school community interacts with one another. It is also evident in how messages are heard, positively influencing actions and attitude towards situations locally and globally. Personal and collective prayer ripples through the school day. Consequently, the community flourishes spiritually together. Pupil worship leaders, 'Leading Lights', play a regular part in sharing the opening and closing greeting. They champion the importance of this role. The responsibility to serve others during worship is seen as a privilege.

Pupils think deeply in RE lessons. They can confidently recall knowledge gleaned from lessons using accurate religious terminology. School created knowledge organisers effectively support pupils to recall information and build connections between religions studied. Visits to places of worship further enrich and deepen understanding of the lives and practices of believers. Leaders ensure there is high quality RE provision across the school. Lessons are skilfully tailored to connect personal experiences to the lives of believers. Teacher marking helps pupils to know how to improve, extend their thinking and celebrates areas of success. Consequently, pupils flourish in RE.

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

Information			
Inspection date	23 May 2024	URN	118608
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	72
Diocese	Rochester		
MAT/Federation	The Darent Federation		
Executive Headteacher	Tom Hardwick	Head of School, Colette Taylor	
Chair	Kirsty Oliver and Rebecca Hamburger		
Inspector	Rebecca Swansbury	No.	970