

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary of Charity Church of England Primary School

Vision

“Feed my lambs....take care of my sheep.” John: 21

We are a community where everyone is included. A place of nurture where through creative learning, acceptance and celebration we are all able to flourish. Our inclusive school encourages children to be curious, passionate, ambitious and courageous. Everyone at St Mary of Charity Church of England Primary School is determined to be confident in who they are, aspire to realise their full potential and support each other through respect, honesty and forgiveness. Guided by Jesus we are accepting of the wonderful diversity within our community and have hope that our children will continue to advocate for and celebrate the unique needs of all throughout our wider world.

St Mary of Charity 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 is deeply embedded. Kindness, respect, and dignity permeate any actions and decisions made in school. Through clearly articulated values, with an emphasis on moral development, the school fosters an environment of compassionate relationships.
- Collective worship is a vibrant and integral part of school life, clearly embodying the school’s vision of nurture, care, and inclusive flourishing. Worship enables the school community to grow spiritually and live out the school’s values in meaningful ways.
- The school’s inclusive curriculum enables vulnerable pupils, including those who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to flourish. Leadership ensures carefully tailored support and strong collaboration with families and external agencies. This holistic approach, rooted in the school’s Christian vision, allows every child to feel valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.
- Rooted in its Christian vision, the school actively empowers pupils to understand and engage with issues of justice and responsibility. Through the curriculum and extra-curricular activities, pupils develop a strong moral compass and a deep commitment to fairness, compassion, and social action.

Development Points

- Strengthen assessment practices and procedures in religious education (RE) to ensure that pupils, regardless of starting points, make good progress.
- Ensure that spirituality is planned for and delivered throughout the curriculum to provide rich and consistent opportunities for pupils’ spiritual development,



Inspection Findings

St Mary of Charity Church of England Primary School is a small school with a strong culture of inclusivity and nurture. It is part of a multi-academy trust promoting collaboration and belonging. Through strong leadership, the Christian vision, “Feed my lambs... take care of my sheep” (John 21) is at the heart of the school. This is deeply embedded in the school’s ethos, guiding both daily practices and educational strategies. Following the disruption of COVID, the vision was reviewed to ensure that it supports pupils’ access to the curriculum through a nurturing approach. Core values such as determination, aspiration, teamwork, faith, forgiveness, respect, and honesty are integrated into the curriculum. These encourage pupils to be curious, ambitious, and confident. Leadership at all levels is supported by Aquila The Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust and diocesan advisers ensuring that the vision is effectively delivered. Staff are provided with professional development opportunities from both the diocese and trust. This fosters a sense of collaboration and community between staff which directly impacts pupil outcomes. The school’s well-structured curriculum promotes critical thinking and community engagement. Local and trust-wide initiatives, including wellbeing champions and a focus on personal development, contribute to a positive learning environment. Pupils are awarded wristbands to celebrate the school’s values, proudly displaying them to celebrate achievements. All values are underpinned by Bible stories, and these are shared throughout the school at age-appropriate levels. The school’s leadership has a measurable impact on pupils’ progress, personal growth, and flourishing.

School leaders are deeply committed to nurture and inclusivity. This ensures that vulnerable pupils, including those who have SEND, are supported to flourish academically, spiritually, and personally. The school’s curriculum is designed to offer opportunities for children to develop their God-given gifts. Times for reflection nurture moral development and help pupils to act upon their values. School policies advocate planning for spiritual moments throughout the curriculum to create a holistic educational experience. However, these are not always evident which reduces the impact on pupils’ spiritual development. In line with the school’s vision, leaders work closely with external agencies and this allows pupils to flourish. The school fosters strong partnerships with parents and carers to ensure open communication and effective support. Beyond the taught curriculum, the school prioritises emotional and social wellbeing. Through initiatives such as trained emotional literacy support assistants (ELSAs), nurture groups, and breakfast clubs, pupils are helped to start their day positively. The curriculum is adapted to meet the diverse needs of pupils, and social stories are used to support those facing times of change. The inclusive environment celebrates uniqueness, ensuring a feeling of value and empowerment.

Collective worship is central to daily life, deeply reflecting the school’s Christian vision. Worship fosters spiritual growth and flourishing for both pupils and adults. Acts of worship are led by pupils, staff, and local clergy. Worship themes, drawn from the school’s values, diocesan guidance, and the liturgical calendar, offer a reflective and participatory experience. Worship at St Mary of Charity church deepens pupils’ connection to the wider Christian community. School-based celebrations for key festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter further strengthen this bond. Pupils lead services, read prayers, and share Bible stories, while adults also find spiritual nourishment. The inclusive and invitational nature of worship is open to all, whether they do or do not have a faith. The school’s values are consistently reinforced in worship. Regular evaluation ensures that collective worship continues to meet the spiritual needs of the school community. Prayer days deepen pupils’ spiritual connections, allowing them to explore their own faith and beliefs.



The school's Christian vision profoundly shapes a culture where respect, compassion, and dignity are central to daily life. The core values are reinforced through the curriculum and interactions, guiding behaviour and decision-making. These are regularly reviewed and adapted to ensure that they meet the needs of the school community. The school's support for families, including in-house therapy and pastoral care, ensures a safe and welcoming environment. Staff wellbeing is prioritised, with supervision and support provided to foster a positive and supportive workplace. The school's Christian vision translates into a culture where members are treated with kindness, respect, and care, promoting positive relationships across the community.

The school's culture fosters a strong sense of justice and responsibility. The school promotes critical thinking, empathy, and active citizenship, encouraging pupils to engage with issues of fairness, compassion, and advocacy. Pupils take on leadership roles such as school council representatives, house captains, and reading ambassadors. This empowers them to become responsible members of their school community. Activities like fundraising, charity work, and community service deepen their understanding of social justice. At the same time, the curriculum explores ethical and moral questions, nurturing empathy and developing a strong moral compass. Outdoor play and learning (OPAL) during lunchtime allows pupils of all ages to engage with each other. This means that they take calculated risks with outdoor equipment and explore creative play. Pupils also enjoy quiet spiritual reflection time and lead projects like sending Christmas cards to local pensioners. Supported by local clergy, the school encourages pupils to reflect on their place and role in the world.

Curriculum planning in religious education is effective, offering a programme that is challenging, accurate, and well sequenced. The curriculum is balanced and inclusive, rooted in the Understanding Christianity resources. It is enriched by world faiths, British culture, and diverse perspectives. Through this, pupils develop a deep understanding and respect for different cultures and religions. It is structured to build on prior knowledge and promotes deep understanding, critical thinking, and opportunities for personal reflection. Visits to places of worship and collaborative curriculum development with local schools enrich pupils' experiences. Training and advice from the trust support continuous growth and improvement. Best practice is shared through RE leaders' meetings across trust schools, allowing staff to develop and flourish.

Pupils explore big questions through current issues and discussion about God including racism and the Big Bang theory. Through their debates, they develop respectful, well-informed viewpoints. Pupils confidently discuss religious concepts, symbols, and key Christian events. They enjoy lessons that use drama techniques to encourage deep thinking about religions. Pupils reflect on the role of faith in everyday life and major events. While assessment strategies are evolving and contributing to teaching, there is variability across the school in supporting consistently good pupil progress. Staff participate in ongoing professional development for RE. This ensures that they provide meaningful lessons that deepen pupils' understanding of different faiths. Lessons are inclusive and thoughtfully delivered by class teachers who know their pupils well. RE contributes significantly to the school's success in nurturing well-rounded individuals.

Information

Address	Orchard Place, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8AP		
Date	8 May 2025	URN	141220
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	208
Diocese	Canterbury		
MAT	Aquila The Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust		
Headteacher	Louise Rowley-Jones		
Chair of Governors Chair of Trust	Alison Swinney Sue Butterworth		
Inspector	Geraldine Shackleton		