

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

West Felton Church of England Primary School

Vision

Preparing for life in all its fullness

We want to build good people-good people who will make a difference in our communities; They'll aspire to add kindness, with humility and treat others with dignity. We want our faith to be an anchor, a pull which reminds us of what is right, what is wrong, what is important and why.

Our values: Kindness, Aspiration, Community, Dignity.

West Felton 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

- West Felton's vision shapes school life and is at the heart of this community. Along with underpinning values, it is lived each day and is central to adult and pupil flourishing.
- Partnerships are important to the school and are valued throughout the community. They are strong, varied, and relevant to its context. They enhance and enrich provision.
- Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils and staff to reflect on the Christian values, and how they are supported by Scripture. Worship is made relevant to today's world, and this contributes to a school community that can flourish spiritually.
- The school places a high importance on the wellbeing of pupils and adults. This leads to a supportive and caring environment where people feel safe and valued.
- The Religious Education (RE) curriculum is carefully and thoughtfully planned. It is passionately led and as a result the subject is valued, challenging and effective.

Development Points.

- Further strengthen the impact of spirituality through the development of a shared language to articulate its meaning. This will allow the pupils the opportunity to better express and discuss their spiritual experiences and feelings.
- Through the RE curriculum, develop pupils' understanding of a broader range of Christian practice. This will allow a greater and more diverse knowledge of approaches to Christian faith and worship.
- Establish a more formal approach to enable governors to monitor and evaluate the school's Christian distinctiveness. This will enable them to have a greater clarity about the impact of the vision.



Inspection Findings

West Felton is a school that not only expresses its vision but lives it. 'Preparing for life in all its fullness', is underpinned by a set of values: kindness, aspiration, community, and dignity. This creates a safe, positive community that nurtures aspiration, respect and self-belief. Pupils are confident about how they can embrace the school values to face the challenges of everyday life. They are woven throughout their learning, thereby confirming their importance in school and beyond. Leaders are clear about what it means to lead a Church school. This is reflected in the use of resources and in the development of policies and practice. Along with governors they ensure that the vision is central in everything that is planned. There is no formal approach for governors to monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision.

Leaders ensure that the school vision, 'preparing for life in all its fullness', is reflected throughout the curriculum. It is structured and shaped to ensure that learning opportunities enable pupils to flourish. As a result, pupils enjoy lessons and are well motivated. A range of extracurricular provision enriches their lives, bringing new and varied experiences. The values are an intrinsic part of the curriculum. Steps are taken to ensure that those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged can be confident in the classroom. This is achieved by skillful intervention and support giving pupils a degree of courage and dignity to face new learning. There are opportunities for spiritual development in the curriculum. However, there is no clear, shared language to enable pupils and adults to explore spirituality together. This limits opportunities to articulate their own and others' spiritual encounters and experiences.

Daily collective worship is important at West Felton and celebrates the vision through the exploration of school values. It provides opportunities for the community to regularly reflect on how Scripture is relevant in today's world. All are welcomed to these carefully planned times. They invite and enable those of religious faith or none to be inspired by worship in a variety of ways. Pupils are encouraged to interact and respond during worship. For example, deeper level questions are asked, giving time to reflect thoughtfully. Enthusiastic singing is inspirational and uplifting. It provides opportunities for pupils to engage, and flourish. A close and important partnership with the local church impacts positively on these gathered times. Worship regularly takes place at the church to mark festivals and special occasions. These events strengthen the understanding of Anglican traditions and practice and are appreciated by the whole community. Pupils are encouraged to lead worship and often read from the Bible and pray. Trained by the diocese, the worship team members feel able and confident to create meaningful and inspiring times for the school community. Worship clearly promotes spiritual growth and flourishing. However, pupils and adults lack the vocabulary to enable them to explore this with confidence and in depth.

Inspired by the vision, the culture at West Felton is one where wellbeing plays an important role. This creates a place where emotional and academic needs are met, and pupils are able to thrive. This includes those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, whose additional needs are well met through the work of skilled support staff. There is an expectation of nurture and care that is central to the school's vision. Leaders are determined to promote and protect the mental health of the whole school community. This is achieved through work in the wider curriculum, by knowing pupils and families well, and by effective pastoral care. It results in an inclusive environment where time is spent listening and understanding each other. Those who are experiencing difficulties are quickly noticed and effectively helped. As a result, pupils are confident that they will be supported to be the best they can be. Good quality relationships and good behaviour are strongly evident in the school community. They are an important part of ensuring the school lives out its values. Staff, pupils and parents treat each other with dignity, courtesy and respect resulting in a calm environment for learning. On occasions where things do go wrong, relationships are quickly, meaningfully and effectively restored. School leaders are also cared for. The diocese, governors and others in the federation are on hand to listen and advise. This helps leaders to share their successes, concerns and worries, giving opportunities to ensure their wellbeing.

The extensive range of worthwhile partnerships are an important part of living the school vision. They range from those within the local community to international links. Through them pupils' views and understanding of their



own community as well as the wider world are extended and enhanced. The positive relationship with the local church is strong and mutually beneficial. Through this the community is enriched and strengthened. When considering matters of injustice, pupils are inspired and motivated to act. In response to a Save the Children scheme creates time for pupils to think deeply about those whose lives and experience is different to theirs. A wide range of pupil leadership responsibilities provide opportunities to live out the school vision and values.

Leaders and governors at West Felton ensure that the RE meets the requirements for the subject in a Church school. RE is skillfully and passionately led and well resourced. As a result, it has a high status and is valued by pupils and staff. The training needs of teachers are prioritised and are supported by the subject leader and diocese. This helps them to be confident and effective in their work. The curriculum is well planned, relevant, engaging and challenging. However, occasions to learn in greater depth about the breadth and diversity of Christian practice are limited. Pupils are excited by opportunities in the curriculum to explore and develop their understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. The RE curriculum provides meaningful openings for pupils to discover and respond to different viewpoints in respectful and thoughtful ways. This is highly effective in developing their religious and cultural knowledge and understanding.

Information

Address	West Felton Church of England Primary School, School Road, West Felton, Oswestry. SY11 4JR		
Date	20 January 2025	URN	123512
Type of school	VC	No. of pupils	154
Diocese/District	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	Westcliffe federation		
Headteacher	Helen Hughes		
Chair of Governors	Mrs E. Whitmore		
Inspector	Sue Hodgetts		