

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Newdigate Church of England Endowed VA Infant School	
Address	Village Street, Newdigate, Dorking, RH5 5DJ
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
In God's hands, we learn and grow
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transformational leadership of this excellent school is passionately committed to the flourishing of every member of the school community. Lives are undoubtedly changed here. Underpinning all the school does is a deeply theological Christian vision that is understood, appreciated and lived out by all. • Pupils are intentionally empowered to think for themselves. Even the youngest pupils, live out the vision powerfully as they 'grow and learn' with an impressively high level of independence. Courageous advocacy is very strong, however, it is not yet fully pupil led. • Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school. It fosters the exceptional spiritual development of pupils and adults with highly meaningful times of prayer and reflection. • As a result of the school's Christian vision, relationships are overwhelmingly positive and harmonious. The school's nurturing and deeply loving culture allows each member of the community to celebrate their uniqueness and God-given gifts and talents. • RE is excellent and is rooted in the vision. Curriculum planning is very effective and ambitious. It is rich and engaging and allows pupils to acquire and develop knowledge of world faiths and skills in a creative way.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So that pupils continue to flourish in their courageous advocacy, extend the extra-curricular offer even further so that it is more pupil led.



Inspection findings

The Christian vision of this excellent school is life-affirming. As one of the oldest church schools in the village and the diocese, it serves as a beacon of both tradition and transformation. It empowers both pupils and adults; all 'learn and grow'. The school's impact is widespread. School leaders share excellent practice with other schools and the local community. Continuous professional development for staff is dynamic and is far reaching. Many staff have been promoted to senior leadership roles across the Mole Valley Gateway Church of England Schools Federation. This school is at the heart of the local community and leaders have an unrelenting commitment to seeing all flourish. Parents speak about how the school's vision inspires them and develops their own growth and learning. They describe the school as 'nurturing' and 'heart-centred' and adopt the vision and values their children so passionately speak about. Community events like the school's summer fete 'May Queen' bring the entire community together and foster inter-generational relationships that are life-changing. Members of the local community, from a wide range of professions and vocations, routinely visit the school and share their life experiences with the pupils. This brings learning to life and enhances pupils' understanding of their own growth as valued members of society.

Spiritual development is a priority at the school and is at the heart of the Christian vision. 'Places of peace'- stations of independent reflection and prayer- are highly valued by the entire school community. Effective analogies such as the 'peace zip' are used to help pupils reflect spiritually on their character and conduct, They think about how they impact on the well-being of others and how they 'zip peace back up' for themselves after arguments. Such innovative and age-related terms are a testament to the rich and varied initiatives that are in place to support the flourishing of the school community. The widespread impact that the school's practice in this regard has can also be seen in the local village church adopting similar 'places of peace' within its vicinity, taking the lead from the school. Collective worship is a dynamic vehicle through which pupils and adults develop spiritually. It is invitational, inspiring, inclusive and regarded highly by pupils and adults. Collective worship raises and promotes progressive Biblical story literacy amongst the pupils and celebrates significant achievements along with pupils' birthdays. Pupils and adults engage in worship with integrity, whether they are from a faith background or not. The planning and monitoring of collective worship is meticulous, with pupils fully involved in this process. The relationship with the local parish church is particularly fruitful. Pupils value the collective worship they have at the church fortnightly.


The broad and balanced curriculum gives pupils extensive opportunities, both explicit and implicit, to develop their sense of self, allowing them to flourish. Engaging subject content is strongly underpinned by the school's vision. Pupils are independent learners and are actively encouraged to lead their learning within lessons. They use a 'learning line' to self-assess how much they are 'growing up the line' academically in that lesson. Most children are independent swimmers by the end of Year 2 (the school has its own swimming pool on site). Pupils who may need extra support to achieve this (including those with special educational needs) are given individual lessons. Rich and highly creative learning is commonplace at the school.

Pupils' behaviour and conduct are outstanding. The 'Bee Rules' and associated school Christian values empower even the most vulnerable pupils to positively live out the school's vision, giving them a secure and safe base for their flourishing. There is an inspirational culture of love, help and support. Mental and emotional well-being is a genuine priority, flowing from the vision. Difference and diversity is powerfully embraced and celebrated. Pupils from different backgrounds lead learning and share cultural experiences, different faith



beliefs and practices, which enables all to flourish. Pupils are empowered and moved to ethical and social action. They see themselves as global citizens who have a deep and God-given responsibility. This responsibility is to help others 'learn and grow' who may not have the same opportunities as them. The school's partnership with St Catherine's Mercy House in India was fuelled by pupil voice. Pupils wanted to sponsor a child who otherwise would not be able to have an education. Consequently, pupils' confidence and initiative as courageous advocates is inspiring. Many articulate that God 'holds them' because of his love and so they need to also 'love others' by helping them in a proactive way. Roles such as 'little governors' (school council), 'eco warriors' (environment champions) and 'angels' (behaviour role models) promote the school's Christian vision in a powerful way. Pupils execute their highly responsible work of watching over their school community. They try to emulate Jesus in their leadership positions, helping their peers to grow in character excellence. For example, the work the school does to develop young carers is outstanding. Carers as young as six years old are given great status and supported in their roles. Pupils are moved and inspired to action in raising money to support such work and past pupils support this endeavour. Celebrating significant positive achievements and relationships are the routinely normal yet cherished features of the school.

All pupils make strong progress in RE through an engaging and inspirational curriculum. Pupils' knowledge of Christianity and other faiths is very strong. Pupils flourish, including pupils with SEND and the most able, surpassing expectations. The provision is tailor made to meet the needs of all pupils. It is monitored meticulously, with leaders pioneering new approaches to assessment. This is shared with other federation and diocesan schools.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	Pupils love RE and teachers skilfully use questions to foster curiosity and develop pupils' responses. The school partners well with a variety of local places of worship which pupils visit. Pupils' impressive knowledge of key religious vocabulary means that even less able students are able to articulate complex ideas. Pupils develop a mature understanding of faith and belief due to the respectful climate for learning that is created.			
Information				
School	Newdigate Church of England Endowed VA Infant School	Inspection date	12 June 2023	
URN	125192	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Guildford	Pupils on roll	71	
Headteacher	Paula Bliss			
Chair of Governors	Alok Agarwal			
Inspector	Andrew Wignal	No.	2118	