

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Cornwood Church of England Primary School

Vision

A family where we flourish and learn to be the best version of ourselves.

The wise and foolish builder – Matthew 7:24

Cornwood 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 distinctive Christian vision and its biblical basis is known, understood and lived by the school community. It is carefully woven through the life of the school. The vision has guided the school through a time of change.
- Leaders have created a broad, balanced religious education (RE) curriculum which is shaped by the context of their school. This is supported by a strong partnership between the school and diocese.
- Leaders have used the school's Christian vision to create a caring, inclusive community, where people are treated with a high degree of dignity and respect. The school occupies a key place in the life of its village and the families it serves.
- Collective worship is deeply reflective of the school's distinctive Christian vision and associated values. Enhanced by the strong partnership with the local church, this is leading to the spiritual flourishing of adults and pupils.

Development Points

- Develop all governors of the new federation in their role of monitoring and evaluating the school against its distinctive Christian vision. This is so that the new federation fully supports the school in its foundation as a Church school.
- Ensure that opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum are made explicit to pupils. This is so that the impact of these experiences is clear.
- Enhance pupils' understanding of justice so that they can reflect more deeply on the reasons for being agents for change.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision at Cornwood and its associated values are embedded in the life of the school. Rooted in the bible story of the wise and foolish builder, they provide a strong framework within which adults and pupils can flourish. Leaders' actions are driven by a clear focus on nurturing a school family which is laying down and building on solid foundations. This family includes staff, pupils, parents and the wider community. Leaders at all levels talk confidently about taking bold decisions that shape the life of the school. A key example is the introduction of a new scheme for teaching phonics. Leaders researched and implemented the scheme that they believed laid the best foundations for their context. Pupils explain how the vision supports them and the adults in the school to be the best they can be. This vision has recently driven and shaped the school through a time of change. Leaders carefully considered options for school organisation. Their decision to become part of a larger federation has brought enhanced support from a wider family of schools. However, the associated changes in governance mean that the monitoring and evaluation of Cornwood as a Church school is not fully embedded.

Leaders have used the vision to shape the broad curriculum at Cornwood. This includes opportunities to develop an understanding of life outside the school's village setting. Reading texts from different countries and cultures are chosen to deepen pupils' understanding of the wider world. Pupils enjoy learning about difference and demonstrate curiosity about the world beyond their village. Adaptations are made to enable pupils with a range of additional needs to access the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. The school has a clear shared understanding of spiritual development. This encourages reflection on the self, the world and beyond. Planned opportunities to develop this reflection have been given during spirituality afternoons where pupils have been supported to express their thinking through art. Wider curriculum links to spiritual development have been made in the school's planning. However, these links are not always made explicit to pupils. As a result, opportunities for pupils to understand how they develop spiritually through the curriculum are missed.

Collective worship is a central feature of the life of Cornwood and is supporting the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. Themes are carefully planned by the collective worship lead. These weave together the seasons of the church's year with the school's Christian vision and underpinning values. Daily acts of collective worship begin and end with words which are familiar to the pupils. This helps to create a sense of gathering and a connection with the Anglican tradition. Pupils with additional needs are supported by adults and their peers to participate. There are opportunities for pupils to lead collective worship. The ethos council helps to create the space for worship each day and regularly leads reflection and prayers, including the school prayer. Members of the ethos council also complete a daily reflective journal. This contributes to the evaluation of the impact of worship by leaders. A strong partnership with the local church enhances collective worship. This includes regular worship led by the vicar and the 'open the book' team. Consequently, pupils are enthusiastic about collective worship. They know it is an important time that makes them think, reflect and look beyond themselves.

Pupils, staff and parents at Cornwood treat one another with dignity and respect. During learning, social times and collective worship, those with additional needs are encouraged and supported by their peers. School staff are encouraged and enabled to flourish in their roles as part of a collaborative community. Leaders use the school vision to maintain a commitment to give all pupils the opportunities they need to develop and grow. As a result, the school prioritises the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Barriers to learning are identified early and acted upon. Parents are clear that school staff are committed to the flourishing of families,



working diligently to build strong relationships with them. Consequently, the sense of community within the school is strong, and pupils and adults are enabled to live well together.

Pupils at Cornwood have a growing sense of responsibility towards others. There are many opportunities for pupils to exercise leadership within the school, including the school council, ethos council, sports council and eco council. These encourage pupils to develop a sense of responsibility towards others and help them to discern how they can be agents of change. The archbishops' young leaders award has given some pupils opportunities to develop a passion for dealing with issues, such as parking and the environment. As a result, these pupils feel strongly about helping people and standing up for others. They understand that the small differences they make can lead to bigger changes. However, there is not a sufficiently developed culture of justice to support all pupils in thinking more deeply about these issues.

RE is led with confidence at Cornwood. Leaders have created a curriculum through which pupils experience a diversity of religious and non-religious views. Pupils benefit from a clear approach to teaching in RE. This means that can talk about their learning journey and know what they will be learning next. Planning identifies possible misconceptions and provides teachers with advice to support pupils with additional needs. Leaders support the development of teachers' subject knowledge through regular professional development in partnership with the diocese. Throughout the curriculum, opportunities are given to explore how Christians in other parts of the world live out their faith. Trips to places of worship and visitors also increase the pupils' understanding of the diversity of belief. This has included a Muslim visitor who shared their faith, experience and practice with the pupils. As a result, pupils speak confidently about the range of religions and worldviews that they learn about. Teaching staff understand the central role of RE in the life of a Church school. RE is a subject in which both teachers and pupils are enabled to flourish.

Information

Address	School Lane, Cornwood, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9PZ		
Date	7 February 2025	URN	113409
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	73
Diocese	Exeter		
Federation	Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation		
Headteacher	Emma Newman (Head of School) John Jolliffe (Executive Principal)		
Chair of Governors	Jackie Enright		
Inspector	Simon Atkinson		