

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Buckden Church of England Primary School

Vision

Every child is loved by God and is educated for wisdom, aspiration, and global citizenship, to thrive in our community through a culture of dignity and respect.

Their gifts, talents and wellness are cultivated with knowledge and skills to live life purposefully in all its fullness. In faith we 'act' 'For nothing will be impossible with God.' Luke 1.37

Buckden 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 deeply embedded Christian vision permeates throughout school life. This results in pupils, staff and families being able to flourish and enabled to 'act.'
- Strong, collaborative partnerships with the diocese, multi-academy trust and church assist the school as they respond to the needs of the school community.
- The school's vision and values of agape (love), courage and thankfulness provide a firm foundation for a culture of compassion and care. This enables pupils and staff to 'live life purposefully in all its fullness.'
- Inspiring and engaging collective worship is a central part of school life. It is inclusive in style providing pupils and adults with opportunities to actively participate including through moments of prayer and reflection.
- Religious education (RE) is a strength of the school. It is well led with sequential planning and support for teachers. This ensures pupils can talk with confidence, showing a breadth of understanding about worldviews and faiths, including Christianity.

Development Points

- To embed and consistently use the shared language and imagery of spirituality developed by the school. This is so that pupils and adults can flourish in their spirituality.



Inspection Findings

Buckden School is an inspiring village and Church school proud to serve its community well. The Christian vision drives the work of the committed leaders and staff. As a result, pupils understand that 'nothing is impossible with God.' They are supported, valued and cared for by staff. The pupils and staff know the Bible well and reflect on stories that exemplify the Christian vision and values they have adopted. These are then developed in the way they respect, care and take responsibility for all they do. Resolute leaders, including governors, consistently focus on the impact of the vision in their rigorous evaluation of the school's work. In this they collaborate with the ACT Multi Academy Trust and the Diocese of Ely Board of Education. Monitoring, evaluation and training celebrate successes and identify next steps for improvement. Because of this leaders and staff are continually improving and evolving practice for pupils and families to thrive.

The vision driven curriculum inspires self-belief supporting pupils to achieve. There is a focus on understanding sustainability weaved from Early Years through to Year 6. Consequently, pupils know they are caretakers of God's creation. Diligent and passionate leadership of special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) ensure staff have a thorough understanding of the individual needs of pupils. There is regular evaluation of provision and training to develop diverse ways of support. The impact of this enhances opportunities allowing pupils to flourish in their learning. Pupils are rewarded for living out the values encouraging them in their actions within school life and beyond. Inspired by the vision leaders ensure there is a range of clubs, visits and residential available to widen their experiences. A shared language and imagery of spirituality bespoke to the school has been developed in collaboration with the church. The staff and pupils are starting to use this when exploring spiritual development. However, this is not embedded or used across the curriculum which means that adults' and pupils' understanding is limited.

Engaging collective worship is well led and thoughtfully planned to explore the vision and values. Love, courage and thankfulness are delved into in depth alongside Anglican festivals and traditions. It is well structured, and staff appreciate the support given to enable them to lead inspiring acts of worship. This is a time to be together and to take a moment in the busy life of the school. Pupils recognise that collective worship helps you think about others and can make you a better person. They speak with confidence when sharing their thoughts in worship. Pupils and adults value the space to reflect, pray and sing which supports their spiritual flourishing. Leaders and pupils regularly monitor and evaluate the collective worship provision. This is fed back to the staff leading who in turn evolve what they are doing. Consequently, pupils feel their contributions are respected. Strong links with St Mary's and other churches ensure that members of the school community experience a range of worship styles. The leaders of the church regularly lead worship in school which also contributes to the spiritual flourishing. The commitment between the school and church working together to support spiritual flourishing is recognised through a shared agreement.

The Christian vision and underpinning values shape the caring culture at Buckden. Nurturing relationships are central to the school's approach of dignity and respect. There is a feeling of oneness and belonging to the school family. This creates a warm environment where staff and pupils are appreciated and watched over with love. They value the school as a safe place. There are many areas for nurture, such as the hub, supporting pupils to live life in all its fullness. This is extended to families who find the school approachable and welcome the advice they are offered. The school provide careful support for young carers and families of service children with a dedicated worker supporting the families. This is a school working well together for the benefit of the community.



Recognition is given to pupils who exemplify the Christian values through weekly celebrations. Staff wellbeing and mental health are prioritised by leaders. They make decisions so staff are enabled and equipped to conduct their roles because of the assistance and training that they receive. Due to this, staff feel supported which enables them to flourish.

Emphasising responsibility and compassion, pupils take on leadership roles within the school community. This is because leadership and responsibility are actively promoted. There are teams leading on eco issues, collective worship, as well as plant monitors, house captains and a school parliament. Consequently, pupils are keen to lead and take the roles very seriously. They know that they are listened to and can make changes happen. Over lunchtimes pupils who are playleaders and mediators collaborate with their peers to solve issues. They use the support of adults if necessary. The lunchtime routines have evolved to ensure there are a variety of different opportunities for pupils to engage with. Themes within the curriculum and collective worship enable pupils to recognise that people can act to protect the environment, support sustainability and challenge injustice. Therefore, they are inspired to raise awareness of issues important to themselves locally, nationally and globally. Pupils know they can challenge injustice and make a difference.

The RE curriculum at Buckden is well planned, balanced and diverse. The RE lead has utilised training and support from the diocese to ensure that there is a breadth of knowledge across worldviews. This is enhanced by families, pupils and guests sharing their personal experiences of different faiths. The sequential curriculum is taught with enthusiasm by staff. They use a range of approaches when teaching. Because of this, pupils enjoy their learning. They talk with knowledge and understanding about a range of religions and world views. Regular RE teaching is enhanced with enrichment days. During these pupils build upon their existing knowledge by exploring themes across religions or festivals. Pupils understand that religions are global and appreciate the diversity within the way they are practised. As a result, pupils speak with confidence to explain their knowledge.

Information

Address	School Lane, Buckden, St Neots, PE19 5TT		
Date	12 June 2025	URN	137639
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	341
Diocese	Ely		
MAT	ACT Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Michelle Heather		
Chair of Governors	Hamish Anderson		
Chair of the Trust	Andrew Waring		
Inspector	Liz Seymour		