

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Ringsfield Church of England Primary School	
Address	School Road, Ringsfield, NR34 8NZ

School vision
<p>Nurturing each individual, Grow with us.</p> <p>‘The Mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.’ (Matthew 13: 31-32)</p> <p>Ringsfield Church of England Primary school is a place for all to grow. Each child is nurtured and enabled to flourish through our teaching and care. Each individual is like a mustard seed, which grows by being part of our school and is supported by our whole school community. We aim to nurture our school family and empower us to develop and grow our God given talents and reach our full potential in a safe, happy and vibrant school with a strong Christian ethos at the heart of our village community. We strive to support and challenge pupils and adults as they grow emotionally, academically and spiritually.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils and adults thrive at Ringsfield as a result of its inclusive and ambitious Christian vision. It changes lives and nurtures people as individuals to grow. • A curriculum built on curiosity with opportunities to reflect leads to pupils who are confident in their thinking. It enables them to enquire about the world around them and prepares them to life live in all if its fullness. • Collective worship reflects the deep Christian roots of the school and is a central part of daily life. Invitational prayer, rich biblical teachings and opportunities to be calm enable the school community to grow spiritually. • Pupils have a strong voice in the social action work of the school. They take their responsibility seriously to act for others to make a transformational difference. • Religious education (RE) is well planned and promotes enquiry which drives the whole approach to learning. It is high profile and develops an appreciation of a range of beliefs, leading to a better understanding of diversity.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend opportunities for pupils to explore injustice and inequality in the wider world. This is to support them to make informed decisions when leading social action projects.
Inspection findings
<p>Ringsfield’s Christian vision is ambitious and inclusive. It takes the parable of the mustard seed and lives out its teaching by nurturing and growing people. The school’s ethos celebrates each person as an individual, making them known for who they are. This leads to a caring community where every decision is driven by the vision. Staff prioritise the whole person and look to provide opportunities that will allow them to flourish. The impact is pupils and adults are genuinely valued for being</p>

unique. A good example is the bold decision to have a specialist pastoral worker and shared special needs leader across the association the school is in. They support and champion pupils who are disadvantaged or who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Resulting in pupils with SEND thriving because they are recognised, supported and celebrated. In classes pupils are made aware of each other's needs and help one another to overcome barriers to learning. The school shines out as inclusive because it builds relationships of trust with its parents. Staff are supported by leaders who invest in them. The St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust provides extensive training and collaboration opportunities. This enables staff to grow their knowledge and expertise. Wellbeing is a priority for both school and trust, enabling staff to be effective in their work because they are valued. Committed governors provide support and take pride in the school's Christian character. They have a visible presence in the school's daily life. They systematically evaluate the impact of the vision, fulfilling their delegated duties. The leads to a strengthening of the strategic work of this Church school.

The curriculum encourages pupils to prosper in their learning and apply this in a range of ways. It is driven by the Trust's core Christian principles on curriculum development. This leads to rich learning opportunities that look beyond the school's rural context. Leaders and staff have developed a shared understanding of spirituality. They have mapped out spiritual development opportunities within the curriculum. Spiritual questions are posed as part of this, leading to pupils being critical thinkers, who can question, discuss and reflect. Ringsfield encourages pupils to grow their interests through a range of extracurricular clubs and enrichment activities. These widen their interests of living a full life. A good example is the older pupils residential to North Norfolk. Pupils celebrated how they were able to develop their independence skills. Through a local sports partnership pupils engage in a range of sporting events. Here, pupils encounter and live out core values such as resilience and perseverance. Pupils who have SEND access the full curriculum offer through adapted learning. Pupils are consistently supported to take movement breaks or regulate their behaviour. As a result, they develop positive learning behaviours, are confident and appreciative themselves and others.

Collective worship offers a spiritual pause in the school's busy day. It is a joyful and engaging experience that provides ideal conditions for spiritual development. Leaders plan worship so the school community can explore its Christian vision and values. Creative weaving of biblical texts into each session helps everyone to understand the vision's roots in Christian teaching. This is enhanced by the links with the local church, who lead worship in school each week. The school holds regular services in church that follow the rhythm of the church year. Everyone is warmly welcomed to engage in these; however, nobody is obliged to take part. Pupils lead worship on Wednesdays and aspects of worship on other days, as a result they value it. They see it as a chance to share their thoughts with God. Others, simply enjoy the calm and quiet time to think. Person-centred contemplation is continued outside of collective worship. The reflection space in the main entrance and reflection garden outside are places pupils feel naturally comfortable in. This ensures they use the daily opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth.

Ringsfield recognises the importance of good mental health and wellbeing. It regularly surveys wellbeing of pupils and staff. The Trust prioritises pupil mental health by funding a three-year counselling programme for pupils in school. Here pupils receive bespoke help to respond to their needs over a significant period of time. Transformational acts happen because relationships are grown by living the Christian values of forgiveness and reconciliation. The staff successfully work with pupils who find school challenging. Highly trained adults constantly respond to the wide range of needs and adapt their practice in response. They work closely as a team and recognises one another's strengths. Each staff member displays real Christian compassion and care. As a result, pupils fully access the curriculum, remain happy in school and feel included.

Pupils live out the school's vision of serving others through roles of responsibility and leadership. This includes eco councillors and junior road safety officers. Pupils have formed close links with civic leaders and local action groups and thrive on the initiatives they undertake with them. A good example is the work they have undertaken to reduce car emissions in the local town of Beccles. Pupils regularly organise events to raise funds for charitable causes. This has led to them advocating greater understanding around disadvantage. The curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to make informed choices. Carefully chosen role models from around the world, are encountered, including Louis Braille, Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg. These encourage pupils to have a strong voice and express a range of views. Consequently, pupils make informed decisions but sometimes these are limited by the role models and opportunities presented to them.

Pupils have a secure grasp of key concepts in RE, they develop these in a sophisticated way over time. This is because the RE curriculum is constructed so a range of beliefs, religions and values are systematically studied. Knowledge is unpacked within these through exploring diversity of views and practices, including in Christianity. This is as a result of the school and Trust identifying the need for rich learning experiences that look beyond its local context. Leaders work with the diocese to support teachers to improve their knowledge, this builds their confidence to teach RE. Well chosen teaching resources, ensure concepts are revisited and developed regularly. This enables pupils to have a good understanding of core concepts such as creation in Christianity. Each concept is presented as a 'big question' that drives enquiry sessions. Pupils are encouraged to think deeply and respond in creative ways. One example is the question: 'What beliefs bind a community together?' Here worldwide multicultural Christianity is explored through, dance, art, and food. Consequently RE is enjoyed and valued by pupils as they see how it helps them understand the world, they live in.

The inspection findings indicate that Ringsfield Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	4 July 2024	URN	144849
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	95
Diocese	St Edmundsbury & Ipswich		
MAT/Federation	St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocesan MAT		
Executive Headteacher	Vicky Allen		
Chair	Cathryn Benefer		
Inspector	Christopher Allen	No.	847