

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

| Cranford Church of England Primary School | |
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| Address | Church Lane, Cranford, Kettering, NN14 4AE |

| School vision |
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| 'I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'Plans to PROSPER you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a FUTURE.' Jeremiah 29:11 |

| School strengths |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders have created a powerful Christian vision that is deeply embedded and lived out daily by the whole school community. This is enabling adults and pupils to prosper, be hopeful and flourish. • Partnerships that exist between the trust, school and diocese are strong. The positive support provided for each other is strengthening their work, and as a result, pupils are thriving. • The wider curriculum opportunities offered by this small school are a real strength. These enrich the learning and have a positive impact on providing an exciting future for pupils. • Engagement with parents, the church and community is fruitful. Everyone is working together to ensure the Christian vision creates a loving and nurturing environment where all are welcome. • Leaders have developed a high-quality religious education (RE) curriculum. As a result, a deep respect for Christianity and other world views is fostered. |

| Areas for development |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a shared language of spirituality that reflects 'The Cranford Way' ensuring individuals thrive and prosper through deeper spiritual experiences. • Extend pupils knowledge and understanding of global issues. This is so they have a stronger sense of justice and social responsibility that spurs them to take positive action. |

| Inspection findings |
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| <p>Leaders at Cranford Primary School have created a nurturing and inclusive learning environment with an inspiring vision at its heart. Members of the community live this out daily, enabling adults and pupils to prosper and flourish. The Christian vision is well-understood and is deeply embedded in its context as a small rural school. It is successful in enabling individuals to continue to look to the future with hope and excitement. Pupils clearly articulate the vision and rightly say it is about being kind and helpful to each other. Partnerships with the trust, school and diocese are strong. Highly committed leaders work collaboratively with governors and the diocese to monitor and evaluate the vision effectively. The trust and school visions work together in harmony to shape policies and strategies which underpin sound decision-making. This is having a positive impact on driving the</p> |



schools' actions to improve. Training and networking opportunities empower staff professionally to develop their skills and knowledge. These are ensuring that pupils are well supported in their learning.

The Christian vision of 'plans to prosper you' is interwoven through a rich and creative curriculum. This is enabling high quality experiences that meet the needs of the pupils. Robust systems to identify and support those who are vulnerable or have additional needs are in place. Carefully chosen resources and adult guidance ensure that learning is personalised and adapted to help them be successful. The provision of an extensive range of extra-curricular activities is impressive, and a real strength for this small school. The pupils talk with enthusiasm about their sports tournaments and the recent Samba drumming rhythms. Year 6 tackled new challenges on their residential and as a result they overcame their fears, gaining confidence and independence. Well-planned transition activities for each year group ensure that pupils are hopeful and excited about their future. This outworking of the vision enhances the academic and wider development of pupils. The reflection barn and areas in classrooms are used purposefully for stillness and contemplation thus supporting spiritual development. Outdoor learning, and for the Reception children, walks to the church, and around the village further enrich spiritual growth. However, currently there is not a shared language for spirituality. This is impacting on the school's potential to offer deeper personal spiritual experiences within the curriculum.

The Christian vision ensures that worship is a treasured time of the day when all can come together. Strengthened by carefully selected themes and values, it prepares pupils for living in a diverse modern world. Bible passages are chosen especially to convey key messages. Worship ambassadors enrich worship as they light candles to represent the Trinity and lead familiar responses. Together, the school enthusiastically and respectfully engages in worship through talk, prayer and reflection. Singing is truly inspirational and the two-part singing of 'Shalom' by the choir is uplifting. Worship is further enhanced as leaders ask insightful questions about the main message and challenge pupils to take decisive action. Services and visits to the church are valued and support their understanding of Christian festivals. Pupils have a good knowledge of Bible stories which reflects the worship provided by the church community and visitors. Families are welcome to join for these special times and particularly appreciate the Friday celebrations. Inspired by a pupil, 'The Cranford Way' values certificate and associated tokens are a cherished part of the school life. Awarded to pupils for showing the vision and values through actions, this positively contributes to their spiritual growth.

Leaders maintain a culture of positive mental health based on hope for an exciting future. Staff know they are valued and supported by a committed leadership team, where a manageable workload is a priority. There is a strong sense of belonging to a caring family that works together supporting each other professionally and personally. This enables staff to create a nurturing and loving environment for pupils. The provision of a family support officer is improving attendance and supporting families. Training staff to help pupils' express their emotions and feelings is having a positive impact on improving their communication skills. Inspired by the vision, leaders ensure that school, church and community relationships are prosperous and flourishing. Parents speak passionately about school and the powerful sense of community. They are welcome to attend many events and value this opportunity to share in school life. The new rector brings an exciting future for the school to further deepen and enrich links with the church community. These shared experiences ensure the Christian vision continues to be a living reality.

Driven by the vision and led by an active school council, pupils are learning how to become responsible citizens. Local community charity work is given high status by supporting the food bank and Christmas presents for Kettering hospital. Social action and fundraising is often initiated by the pupils. This helps them to understand those who are less fortunate and to be thankful for what they have. There has been less opportunity for them to challenge injustice, speak out and take positive

action about wider global issues.

The ambitious vision has ensured that RE is a priority and strength of the school. The diocesan scheme of work and a range of specialist resources build on knowledge and key concepts. Additional school units ensure a wider diversity of worldviews. This positively impacts on pupils' understanding of Christianity and the range of worldviews studied. For example, they enthusiastically discuss the key practices and beliefs of Sikhism and Judaism. Pupils recognise the importance of RE and show respect for the different views of others celebrating these differences. They are willing to both express their own opinions and to listen to the viewpoints of others. The confidence of pupils to share their personal beliefs and practices is inspirational to the whole school community. Leaders ensure teachers are well-supported through diocesan and trust training that is up-to-date and relevant. Recall of previous learning helps teachers to know how well their pupils are doing. Leaders, the trust and the diocese, together monitor the effectiveness of RE and have a clear action plan for improvement. Enrichment days provide challenging and thought provoking concepts and pupils talk about what they learn with maturity. Visits to Peterborough Cathedral and the Queens Park faith tours further enhance the curriculum. This enables pupils to prosper and flourish in RE.

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

| Information | | | |
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| Inspection date | 27 March 2024 | URN | 144841 |
| VC/VA/Academy | Academy | Pupils on roll | 100 |
| Diocese | Peterborough | | |
| MAT/Federation | Peterborough Diocese Education Trust | | |
| Principle and Executive Principle | Robert Tyman and Erica Holt | | |
| Chair | Margaret Holman | | |
| Inspector | Paula Shaw | No. | 2245 |