

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Thurnham Church of England Infant School

Vision

Nurtured we thrive.

At Thurnham Church of England Infant School we draw inspiration from the parable of the mustard seed, a tiny seed that grows into a mighty tree, illustrating the potential within us all to thrive. We believe that by nurturing this power we can create a caring Christian community. By acting with compassion and forgiveness we empower each of us to set a positive example to others. We value everyone's voice and their responsibility to use it for positive change and social justice.

Thurnham Church of England Infant 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.

Notable Strengths

- Thurnham's Christian vision powerfully infiltrates across school life. It drives decisions and interactions.
- There is a culture of openness and dedication to nurturing pupils. This creates trust between staff and parents, allowing them to work well together to achieve the best for the pupils.
- The curriculum and wider opportunities, informed by the context of the school, prepares pupils for life beyond Thurnham. Staff are committed to ensuring the best for pupils to equip them for later success.
- Collective worship provides a calm start to the morning. It brings the school together as one nurturing community who care deeply about one another.

Development Points

- Strengthen the school's shared understanding of spirituality. This is to enable pupils and adults to confidently recognise and express how they are flourishing.
- Ensure the religious education (RE) curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to explore world religions and other worldviews in ways that are relevant to them. This will increase their understanding of how and why people believe and act in different ways.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Thurnham Church of England Infant School has much to celebrate. Leaders are united in their drive to ensure everyone is nurtured. Staff talk openly about being proud to work here. Following the example of school leaders, they serve with humility. The Christian vision, informed by a Bible story about potential, informs leaders' decisions and actions. They are considered and reflective, seeing interactions as opportunities for pupils to grow from tiny seeds to strong trees. Adults seek to nurture one another and the pupils in every exchange. This is demonstrated by the home visits to set up relationships between families and school. It extends to the school practice of using the values of justice and forgiveness to inform their positive approach to behaviour. Governors play an active role in the life of this Church school. They are well informed about school development priorities and how they enable pupils to thrive. Leaders' monitoring and evaluation ensures pupils leave with confidence and ambition for the future.

Vision and Curriculum

The bespoke curriculum considers the pupils' experiences and the context of Thurnham. Staff ensure opportunities are inclusive and accessible across the school. Parents regularly participate in 'come and see' sessions with their children. This shows the vision in action as potential is unleashed and families thrive alongside one another. Staff are knowledgeable about pupils' starting points and plan for individual needs accordingly. In this way the most vulnerable pupils are enabled to flourish in their learning and development. Leaders regularly monitor and review the curriculum to ensure it is relevant and allows pupils to develop both knowledge and emotional awareness. Staff maximise the school's setting and resources, using space creatively and offering a range of wider opportunities and experiences. Right from their first year at the school pupils are encouraged to be confident and proud of who they are. The curriculum empowers pupils to enjoy learning and set a positive example to others.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is calm and adapted to suit the needs of the diversifying community. Pupils and adults enter respectfully and act with reverence. It is a unifying and equitable experience at the start of each morning that prepares people for a successful day. Singing is joyful and helps pupils learn key messages that can help them in life. Links with the local church are important to the school and church alike. The school is working closely together with the new vicar to exploit opportunities to unite the community. Adults also nurture pupils' emotional development and wellbeing by using special spaces inside and outside of the school building. This allows pupils to step outside of the busyness of the day and appreciate the world around them. In this way the school provides opportunities for the community to demonstrate the value of compassion. Although work has begun, the school have not finalised their understanding of spirituality. This means staff and pupils are less confident in recognising what spirituality means to them and in considering how they are flourishing spiritually.

Religious Education

Governors meet with the RE leader regularly to ensure the subject has high priority across school. Strong leadership in RE means that the curriculum is balanced and well sequenced. It has been carefully adapted to take into account the age of the pupils. Knowledge is well-sequenced and coherent, enabling pupils to build on their learning. Pupils learn about a range of world faiths and non-religious views. Stories are used to teach pupils key knowledge. There is minimal coverage of the role religion and worldviews play in people's lives. This limits understanding of the relevance of the subject and of pupils' own place in the world. Leaders find professional learning from the diocese supportive and informative, enabling them to be secure in developing knowledge in



the classroom. RE curriculum provision includes opportunities for in-depth recall of knowledge which builds confidence and communication skills.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils see it as an honour to be given special roles and responsibilities in school. The values of compassion and responsibility build pupils' confidence and drive to use their voice for good. Pupils are taught about wider issues in the world through a weekly series of pictures, news and reflection questions. They talk with enthusiasm about how this allows them to engage with the important things in the world. Pupils are proud of the impact they make on residents at the local care homes. They understand the positive difference their visits and cards make. Pupils are also aware of their responsibility to nurture their local area. As an example, they are pleased to engage in litter picking to contribute to the community.

Vision and School Culture

This school is like a nurturing family where staff model what it means to live well together. Christian values inform how people act towards one another. They directly impact the respectful way friendships and disagreements are dealt with if they need to be repaired. This equips pupils for interactions in later life. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about this welcoming and compassionate school. They view the school as a place of safety where they are confident to have honest conversations. Adaptations are made to ensure pupils access the same opportunities as their peers, whatever their starting points of experience. The school are steadfast in their commitment to the work they are doing in nurturing the pupils. This investment helps pupils thrive as they move on to their junior schools. Leaders are ambitious for their pupils, maximising the three years they have with them by being aspirational and trying new things. Staff wellbeing is nurtured ensuring they can give of their best to help pupils succeed.

Information

Address	The Landway, Bearsted, ME14 4BL		
Date	07 May 2026	URN	118629
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	256
Diocese	Canterbury		
Headteacher	Tony Pring		
Chair of Governors	Sue Jackson		
Inspector	Kate Penfold-Attride		