

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Monkton Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Monkton Street, Monkton, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 4JQ

School vision
<p>Compassion, Courage, Justice – Jesus said, ‘Go and do the same’</p> <p>Our school has compassion at its heart, which inspires us to be people of courage, who care for ourselves, stand with others and seek justice as we grow and discover the world around us. By knowing each individual, our learning environment is shaped to encourage creativity, promote challenge through our learning values and nurture spirituality, ensuring all thrive.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The story of the Good Samaritan, the vision and the values consistently underpin school policies and development plans. It thus drives the provision for pupils and staff.</li> <li>• Collective worship has a high impact on both pupils’ and adults’ spiritual development. This enables them to live out the school’s values of compassion, courage and justice.</li> <li>• Enrichment opportunities within the curriculum and beyond foster an enthusiasm and engagement for learning.</li> <li>• Pupils and adults care deeply for each other. This creates a loving school environment where the nurture of each one is at the heart of decision making.</li> <li>• Pupils enjoy their learning within religious education (RE). The study of world faiths and worldviews develops their respect and understanding of others.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on pupils’ understanding and recognition of social justice so that they become individual and collective agents of change.</li> <li>• Embed the opportunities for pupils to reflect deeply on the impact of world faiths and worldviews on themselves and others.</li> <li>• Ensure that the learning tasks within RE enable pupils to answer the big questions. This is to offer challenge in the RE curriculum for each one.</li> </ul>

## Inspection findings

A sense that everyone is welcome and belongs within the 'family' of this nurturing and caring community weaves its way through every aspect of the school. Drawing on the biblical story of the Good Samaritan, all readily explain the succinct values of compassion, courage and justice. The vision is deeply embedded into the daily life of the school. It is a shared and common language within all dialogue, placing it at the heart of school development. The school's federation with Minster Church of England Primary School enriches improvement strategies. The whole school community welcomes everyone as unique individuals, with intergenerational support actively encouraged. Partnership with diocesan advisers has further developed the vision, collective worship and the RE curriculum. Governors effectively monitor and evaluate the implementation of the vision and Christian values. In this way they offer challenge and ongoing support for Monkton as a Church school.

The school's Christian vision is intrinsic to the curriculum with compassion, courage and justice woven through it as the golden thread. Teachers' planning ensures that the learning environment is enriched with the spirituality of pupils at the forefront. The use of 'windows, mirrors and doors' promotes spirituality in all subjects, giving pupils the opportunity to look, reflect and think deeply. The lessons are structured to meet all pupils' needs. Their interests are considered in the themes, so that they are enthused and engaged in their learning. The use of debates and discussions ensures that pupils' views and opinions are valued. The Forest School enhances the outdoor learning opportunities. Enabling pupils to rise to challenges and connect with the natural world. Extra-curricular activities and school trips are carefully chosen to give pupils opportunities that they may not otherwise experience. Careful consideration of ways to fund activities ensures that all pupils are able to participate. Staff's personal skills and interests are harnessed, enriching the breadth of activities offered. The vision and values are evident in the extra-curricular programme. For example, pupils are given the courage to compete and show compassion when things do not go as expected. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are nurtured and assisted with additional support where required. Due to this encouragement, vulnerable pupils are known as individuals, fully included and make progress. Effective professional training and collaboration through partnership with the federation has developed the knowledge and skills of adults. This gives them strength to work with compassion and courage in their provision for pupils.

Collective worship is highly valued by both pupils and staff at Monkton school. Daily worship is planned and structured to provide powerful opportunities to worship, reflect, praise and learn. Pupils and adults alike cherish this reflective time. Music and singing are used to enhance the experience of worship, drawing the school together in a shared sense of belonging. It is inclusive, enabling all to actively engage. Pupils describe how those with faith and those with none can all gain from the stories. A range of activities, including film clips, absorb both pupils and adults. The themes help them to think and apply the ideas in their own lives. As a result, they readily support others in their work and play. The spiritual development of the whole school community is profoundly enriched by worship. Exceptional opportunities to reflect through carefully crafted topics inspire a deep understanding of the vision and values. This impacts on generating a loving and caring school environment. Governor monitoring demonstrates that pupils enjoy worship and can discuss Bible stories with confidence.

With 'compassion at its heart', the wellbeing of every member of the school community is a high priority. The staff value being part of a supportive team. They feel that their needs are heard and acted upon, which creates a unified and collaborative way of working. Staff professional development is encouraged and supported. This fosters their skills and enhances their sense of wellbeing. Inspired by the Christian vision, 'to go and do', pupils recognise that they are given courage to take on leadership roles. For example, pupils nominate someone each week who embodies the school's Christian values. Using the story of the Good Samaritan as a guide pupils care for each other. This ensures that playtime is a positive experience. Pupils recognise that everyone is different. They express the importance of fairness and inclusivity and the value of making the right choices in their work and play. Through the introduction of the OPAL initiative (an enriching play and learning experience) pupils have the courage to create and challenge themselves through outdoor activities. The introduction of the nurture room and a pastoral teaching assistant is a testament to the school seeking the absolute best for all pupils. This nurturing support enables vulnerable pupils to access every aspect of school life. Parents describe how supported and included they feel, with their views and suggestions being readily heard and acted

upon. Negative behaviour is dealt with in a kind and sensitive way creating a community where each one is treated with love.

Pupils are encouraged to champion the vision through the 'walking through doors school council'. With compassion they identify charities that need support and courageously run events, raising funds to seek justice for all. Encouraged by the vision, to 'stand with others' some pupils have been motivated to take purposeful action. For example, one pupil established a food bank at the school following an inspirational act of worship. Other pupils are keen to pick up litter outside school after learning about the environment. However, opportunities to enable all pupils to understand how to become active agents of change and challenge are less developed.

Through RE pupils are growing in their understanding of religious worldviews. The subject has a high priority in the school. This is because leaders recognise its role in supporting pupils' knowledge of the diverse world in which they live. Visits to places of worship, such as a Hindu temple, combined with people of faith visiting Monkton, enrich the learning experience. Pupils are passionate about their RE learning, describing topics as thought provoking and interesting. For example, one commented about Gandhi that 'it made me think how I should try to think of everything fairly'. RE provides a safe space for pupils to discuss ideas and explore big questions concerning religious understanding. However, the tasks are not always appropriate to enable the pupils to answer them knowledgeably. Nor do the tasks always allow pupils to think deeply on how the themes apply to their lives. Training from the diocese has supported the professional development and subsequent confidence of the RE lead. The curriculum is carefully mapped out to benefit the mixed year groups.

Compassion, courage and justice sum up this Church school, which sits at the heart of the community. Pupils and adults thrive because they are spiritually nurtured.

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

Information			
Inspection date	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	URN	118697
VA/VC/Academy	VC	Pupils on roll	99
Diocese	Canterbury		
MAT/Federation	Federation		
Executive Headteacher	Paul McCarthy		
Headteacher	Chris Marston		
Chair	Darren Philpot		
Inspector	Sara Williamson	No.	C.23/24