



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Capenhurst Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Capenhurst Lane, Capenhurst, Chester, CH1 6HE
School vision	
<p>We are a nurturing, inclusive, learning community that celebrates all possibilities, through a journey of curiosity, compassion and resilience, nourishing each other spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically with God as our companion.</p> <p>Our shared story is 'The Feeding of the 5000' (John 6:1 -14) chosen to reflect our school's commitment to be ready to share what we have with our community and beyond and the importance of coming together to eat and share companionship which everyone recognises as being a special part of our day.</p> <p>We encourage all our children to be curious, resilient and compassionate and have threaded these characteristics through the curriculum.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capenhurst's inclusive Christian vision is the heartbeat of the school life. It is well understood by leaders and is the driving force that enables pupils and adults to flourish in a supportive and loving community. • Collective worship is a significant part of each day in which all pupils and adults take part. Pupils value the opportunities to reflect through a variety of activities. • Vibrant religious education (RE) lessons inspire pupils to learn about a range of world faiths, including Christianity. Pupils develop a firm understanding of Christian theology and explore the lived reality of people of faith. • Wellbeing is a high priority for the school. Consequently, the extremely caring culture ensures pupils and adults are treated well. • The vision inspires pupils to actively demonstrate compassion to those within school and beyond. Consequently, they are instrumental in responding to the needs of others both locally and globally. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a shared understanding of spirituality so that opportunities for spiritual growth can be fully recognised, taken and articulated by all. • Embed and extend opportunities within the curriculum to understand Christianity as a diverse, global faith. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Capenhurst is a small school with a generous heart. Their inclusive Christian vision is understood by leaders and pupils. The nurturing of all members of the school community is evident as pupils and staff show genuine compassion towards one another. Pupils are able to talk, in depth, about the Bible story of the feeding of the 5000. This inspires them to help others through their actions just as</p>	



the young boy did with Jesus in the story. Leaders, including governors, know their community well. They are passionate about securing the best possibilities for everyone. They ensure that the school's vision shapes and drives all school priorities. Governors understand their strategic role well and are a visible and supportive presence. They monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision, ensuring the best outcomes for all children. The vision is meaningfully lived out through Christian values that are woven through all aspects of the school. There are many opportunities for all to reflect, providing opportunities for spiritual development. 'Reflection tree' displays grow and develop throughout the year. These provide meaningful moments for pupils to share their thoughts and prayers. Their reflections, inspired by thoughts at home and school, provide opportunities to be still, think and pray. Pupils and staff are appreciative of each other and there is a sense of belonging for the whole community.

The vision inspired, knowledge rich curriculum has been carefully designed to meet the needs of all and strengthen learning. The curriculum fosters curiosity and supports pupils to be the best that they can be. This enables pupils considered to be vulnerable, and those with additional needs, to thrive. The wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and forest school provision further enhances opportunities to flourish. As a result, pupils speak enthusiastically about their learning and the exciting things they do at school. The school is developing its approach to spiritual development within the curriculum. Throughout the day, there are opportunities for spiritual growth, including opportunities for quiet reflection and appreciating the inspiring local environment. However, a shared language used to describe spiritual experiences is less developed. This limits the ability of adults and pupils to talk with depth about spiritual growth.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is welcoming and allows everyone to participate. It successfully reflects the school's Christian vision and values. It allows time for quiet reflection. Leaders embrace the physical challenges of worshipping together and plan thoroughly for a variety of worship experiences. Pupils and staff enjoy coming together to sing, learn and pray. The church offers a place of stillness and quiet reflection which is cherished by staff as they worship there each week. This enriches opportunities for spiritual development. The village hall offers the opportunity for classes to come together to celebrate achievements and recognise flourishing talent. All staff plan and lead worship weekly, which enhances their own spiritual growth. Families value opportunities to share worship in church and at school. The staff and pupils are part of a caring family of small Church schools and utilise this relationship to worship together. Pupils actively engage in joint worship with the other three schools both virtually and in person throughout the school year. Members of the Ethos Group passionately describe how they lead worship and communicate important lessons to their school community and beyond. A strong culture of prayer is evident. Prayers are said throughout the school day and enhance moments for spiritual growth.

The school's Christian vision inspires the community to value all. The wellbeing of every member of the school community is a high priority and enables adults and pupils to flourish. Leaders understand the challenges to mental health and the impact that this can have on pupil progress. The headteacher ensures that staff expertise in this area is secure through training and ensuring successful local partnerships strengthen the school. As a result, pupils are able to express the importance of valuing themselves and others. They treat each other with respect and demonstrate resilience when faced with challenges. Parents appreciate the way that staff 'go above and beyond' for their children. Staff value being part of a supportive team. Community lunches take place for all classes throughout the school year. This is a time that facilitates the strengthening of relationships between school and the community whilst providing food for all.

The Christian vision is realised as pupils show compassion in practical ways within the local community. These links are strong and the school proactively supports people who are vulnerable within their village. These partnerships help pupils to engage with local social action projects which

inspire them to be champions for change. This work includes litter picking in the village and providing food for the local foodbank through the ‘selfless shelf’ reward system in school. Across the school, pupils regularly discuss current issues of inequality and injustice. They conduct powerful debates about religious discrimination which help them to consider the rights of all to live free of prejudice. Pupils are passionate in championing the needs of others and actively engage in projects to support others around the globe. The vision inspires them to respond with compassion to devastating tragedy in the world.

RE is a strength of the school. Leaders have ensured that RE is well-planned and delivered using various published resources. The curriculum is challenging, sequenced and relevant. Impactful training from the diocese enriches the school's provision of a vibrant and engaging curriculum. As a result, pupils’ knowledge and understanding is flourishing. Pupils speak enthusiastically about RE and have a strong understanding of a range of world religions and views. Pupils see their RE lessons as a safe space to ask big questions and reflect on the answers. Pupils' breadth of understanding of Christianity as a global, living faith is less developed.

Capenhurst serves its community through its demonstration of Christian love and generosity. Staff passionately provide a welcoming environment for all to grow spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically.

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

Information			
Inspection date	5 February 2024	URN	111271
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	100
Diocese	Chester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Claire Green		
Chair	Pat Mitchell		
Inspector	Anna Brooksbank	No.	974