

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bramford Church of England VC Primary School

Vision

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity. Psalm 133:1

Living in Unity.....Together we are ACE! - Aspiration and Combined excellence for Everyone.

Our vision is underpinned by our particles and 16 Christian values for life.

Bramford Church of England VC Primary 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

- Bramford school lives out its biblical vision of becoming your best through living and working in unity. Leaders ensure that the vision impacts upon decision making and actions. As a result, it shapes the culture, curriculum and provision, which enables pupils and adults to flourish.
- At the heart of the vision are supportive and caring relationships and strong partnerships. An inclusive environment helps adults and pupils feel cared for and accepted. Partnerships with the church, village and federation school enable Bramford to live out the vision more widely.
- The curriculum promotes collaboration and working together. Pupils grow as confident, independent learners in an atmosphere of encouragement and united purpose.
- Working in partnership with parents, effective and compassionate help is in place for individual children and their families, particularly in times of challenge. Provision for vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is tailored so that pupils thrive.
- Pupils enjoy religious education (RE) because they learn in creative ways. The use of big questions promotes deep thinking and encourages pupils to explore and respect the beliefs of others.

Development Points

- Broaden the RE curriculum to include the diverse beliefs and practices within religions and non-religious worldviews. This is to extend pupils' understanding of the diversity of traditions and worldviews, enabling thoughtful engagement with the wider world.
- Empower pupils to understand how they can positively impact on the lives of others through their actions. This is to develop their knowledge of service and injustice and understand how they are actively working for equity and equality.
- Promote spiritual development through a structured and consistent approach. This is so pupils and adults can recognise and share experiences and connections and flourish spiritually.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Pupils and adults embody the vision, strengthening unity through mutual respect and a shared purpose. Christian values, such as hope, thankfulness and compassion, give it depth and relevance to school life. Overlapping the vision and values are the school's 'particles', which reinforce them. The particles are shared across the federation, providing a common moral framework that unites the two schools. Pupils understand the Christian values well and encourage each other to live them out, contributing to a caring ethos. Strong leadership promotes unity through collaboration, establishing an inclusive culture of high expectations. Visual messages, such as 'We are united against bullying', reinforce this commitment. Leaders have recently strengthened the profile of the vision and deepened appreciation of its significance in shaping school life. However, the links between the Christian vision, the particles and the Christian values are not fully understood. This reduces the impact of the vision. Pupils explain their actions primarily in terms of the values rather than recognising the overarching Christian vision as the foundation of school life. Committed governors make strategic and courageous decisions aligned with the vision, enabling the school to grow and flourish.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum reflects the Christian vision through its strong emphasis on working together. It encourages pupils to be open-minded and enquiring. Collaboration is integral and, by helping one another to learn, pupils develop valuable life skills. This builds confidence, enabling pupils to take risks and move on from mistakes. As a result, they show resilience and engage positively with learning. Trips, visits and clubs enrich the curriculum and broaden pupils' horizons. These experiences promote an outward-looking perspective and deepen understanding of the wider world. Through the curriculum, pupils develop an appreciation of nature. This contributes to their spiritual development. However, a shared understanding of spirituality at Bramford School is not established. This limits the impact of spiritual opportunities when they take place, and their significance is not always recognised or explored fully. Vulnerable pupils and those with SEND receive sensitive and tailored support, enabling them to be successful learners and thrive. By nurturing relationships with families, the school extends its vision into the community, strengthening both.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship reflects and reinforces the Christian vision. Pupils experience a sense of belonging and unity as the school community gathers together. Familiar opening words create a distinct and reverent atmosphere, setting the tone for meaningful worship. Through Bible stories told in engaging ways, pupils make connections between Christian teachings and their own lives and experiences. Opportunities to pray and reflect encourage deep thinking and supports pupils' spiritual growth. As a result, pupils develop insight into themselves, others and the wider world. 'I wonder' questions promote thoughtful reflection, enabling pupils to explore ideas with confidence while listening respectfully to different viewpoints. The impact of worship themes extends beyond school. Pupils discuss and apply what they have heard to foster unity in relationships at home. Regular services led by clergy enrich worship and deepen understanding of the Christian faith. Special services in church, including Harvest celebrations, are well attended by families and strengthen the partnership between school, church and community. Celebration worship reinforces success in living out the Christian vision, highlighting the positive difference this makes to school life.

Vision and School culture

Strong relationships are at the heart of living out the vision, fostering unity through mutual respect, responsibility and care. Modelling the values, adults and pupils treat one another with courtesy and kindness. Help is readily available for those in need, making a significant difference, particularly in challenging circumstances. A culture of compassion ensures that individuals feel supported. Leaders, including governors, demonstrate a commitment to staff wellbeing, making decisions that take workload into account. As a result,



they feel valued. Training and development opportunities enable staff to flourish professionally. Policies are increasingly rooted in the vision, reinforcing its influence on the school's culture and daily practice. For example, the behaviour policy promotes collaboration to restore unity. Consequently, the school is a calm and purposeful environment. Displays across the school promote shared expectations and unity, reinforcing the vision's influence on daily life. However, pupils do not always reference these or recognise their actions as an expression of the vision.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Enriching partnerships strengthen unity and deepen the sense of community. Leaders seek opportunities to make connections beyond the school which are mutually beneficial. The partnership with the church fosters a sense of belonging to a wider family. Membership of the federation increasingly provides opportunities to share expertise and collaborate, for mutual benefit. The school council enables pupils to represent their peers. They value having their voices heard and are confident that adults listen. However, they are less certain about how their views influence change. Through the curriculum, pupils develop an awareness of injustice. Learning about the Windrush generation, for example, has prompted thoughtful discussions about unfair treatment and its consequences. Pupils are eager to raise money for charities and understand that their actions can help others. However, they are less clear about the long-term impact their contributions can have in bringing about meaningful change. Partnerships with external agencies provide timely interventions for pupils and their families. This ensures help is available when needed and reflects the school's commitment to compassion and care.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum promotes unity by fostering respect for the beliefs and experiences of others. Pupils encounter a range of world religions, including Christianity, and explore similarities between faiths. As a result, they develop curiosity, critical thinking and an appreciation of shared values and beliefs. Creative learning activities engage pupils and deepen their understanding. The enquiry curriculum includes discussions on big questions, especially those which have no answer. This challenges pupils to think beyond the obvious. Working with the diocese, leaders build their own expertise, enabling them to assist staff and keep skills current. The curriculum is balanced and meets the Church of England's expectations for RE. However, diversity within religious tradition is not explored. For example, pupils do not fully appreciate Christianity as a global faith expressed through diverse traditions and forms of worship. Opportunities to engage with non-religious worldviews are also limited. Consequently, pupils do not encounter the breadth of beliefs and perspective represented in wider society. This restricts their understanding of diverse views and limits their ability to develop own worldviews.

Information

Address	Duckamere, Bramford, Suffolk, IP8 4AH		
Date	23 June 2026	URN	124723
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	237
Diocese	St Edmundsbury and Ipswich		
Federation	Bramford and Somersham Primary School Federation		
Headteacher	Diane Turner		
Head of School	Jayne Squirrell		
Chair of Governors	Eric Falla		
Inspector	Rachel Beeson		