

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Witley Church of England Infant School

Vision

Learn, love and flourish together.

Learning is at the heart of our school life, enabling all to flourish together with God's love.

In everything we do, our aim is to 'encourage and help each other'. Rooted in 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

Witley 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

- The Christian vision and supporting values underpin the work of Witley informing the school's strategic direction. Through strong partnerships with a group of local schools, the diocese and the church, pupils and staff flourish together.
- Pupils and staff are nurtured in an environment that is securely underpinned by encouragement, love and respect. This creates a happy and harmonious environment in which the school community 'learn, live and flourish together'.
- Reflecting the vision, pupils develop a love of learning within an engaging and creative curriculum. Opportunities within the outdoor environment add vitality to learning experiences, contributing to their flourishing.
- Collective worship is a joyful part of the day that embraces the school's vision and values. This ensures that these are lived out in everyday school life.
- Pupils are developing an awareness of their part in building a strong school community. At the same time, they look at the wider world and create a better environment for themselves and others.

Development Points

- Ensure that leaders, including governors, routinely include within their monitoring an evaluation of the impact of the school's Christian vision. This is to inform improvement planning and support Witley's development as a Church school.
- Develop a shared understanding of spirituality across the curriculum, school environment and acts of worship. This is to strengthen the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.
- Enhance the opportunities for pupils to respond to the challenges within the curriculum in religious education (RE). This is to allow them to explore their personal worldview of living, thinking, belonging and believing.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

'Learn, love and flourish together' forms the guiding principle for the work of Witley school. It shapes the strategic direction of the school, ensuring that individuals thrive academically and personally. The chosen Bible verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:11 spurs the school leadership to encourage pupils and staff to become the best version of themselves. This helps build a cohesive community where trust and dignity for the individual creates a happy and harmonious school environment. The vision is lived out through the Christian values of friendship, respect, joy, resilience, trust and confidence. They provide a shared identity across the school, inspiring pupils and adults to serve and help each other. Acknowledging that they are a small school has driven leaders to be actively outward looking. They have sought valuable partnerships with other local schools and the diocese. This helps sustain staff development and secure wider opportunities for pupils. Leaders, including governors, know the school's context well and carry out regular monitoring activities. However, these do not evaluate the impact of the vision on school life, thus limiting the progress of Witley as a Church School.

Vision and Curriculum

'Learning is at the heart of school life' with leaders developing a curriculum that enthuses pupils. Hands-on learning activities ensure that they are enthusiastic and absorbed in their tasks. This includes, for example, making wind vanes or sport activities linked to their lessons about Victorian times. Learning is effectively enriched by a range of visits. These enable pupils to question and seek answers about their world, as well as find real joy in the experience. For example, through visits to a local farm or to an aviation museum. Pupils are cherished as individuals, with high value placed on their specific needs. This ensures that bespoke provision, on and off-site, enables them to thrive. Pupils flourish together in their learning. They encourage each other in the challenges set, spurring their peers to be resilient and never give up. Pupils embrace moments of awe and wonder in the woodland area, fostering their spirituality. However, at present there is no shared understanding of spirituality, and it is not planned into the curriculum. This limits the spiritual development of pupils. Partnerships with a group of local schools broaden opportunities for pupils, in particular through sport. A range of extracurricular activities, including dance, French and cookery, enable pupils to foster their individual skills and talents.

Worship and Spirituality

Worship is a special time of day when the school gathers together as a community. A focus on the school's vision and associated values, exemplified through Bible stories, helps secure their central place in school life. Following the role models within the stories inspires pupils to be consistently kind and generous to each other. They note that they feel happy inside when they help someone. Pupils and adults value time to be quiet and still in worship. This helps them feel relaxed and loved, supporting their spiritual development. Close bonds with the local church enrich worship. An inspiring church drama team engages and involves pupils, encouraging them to respond positively to times of prayer. Whether in worship or in class 'peace corners', pupils show gratitude or seek help when feeling anxious or worried. They are confident that 'God will help you' or 'calm you down'. Pupils and adults experience times of great joy in the weekly celebration worship. In this way the school 'flourishes together' as they share in the success of each other.

Vision and School Culture

Witley is firmly girded in love, with individuals being known and respected. Staff act as positive role models to pupils who in turn show kindness to each other. They welcome newcomers to the school showing a maturity in understanding the emotions and challenges of making new friends. Leaders work effectively to build trust with parents and carers. This ensures that questions and difficulties, however small, are managed in a prompt and compassionate manner. Leaders have made the wellbeing of pupils a priority, encouraging the school community to be part of this. This is exemplified in 'groundforce' days, when families have helped develop the outdoor



playground. In this way playtimes offer a wide range of activities. These develop teamwork and enable pupils to learn skills in negotiation and compromise. At the same time, they encourage pupils to interact, building friendships across all ages, thus creating a happy and calm environment. Staff feel encouraged and supported in their work, reflecting the school's vision. They know that their professional needs will be secured. At the same time, they form a mutually supportive team that cares for each other personally. In this way they flourish together.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The vision's aspiration to 'learn, love and flourish together' helps build a unified caring community. Pupils recognise their part in growing a positive and supportive environment. They readily embrace roles of responsibility within their classroom as 'helping hands' or in gathering equipment at the end of playtime. Through the school council they confidently express ideas about improving the school. This has resulted, for example, in the introduction of monkey bars on the playground. A range of charitable events engage and involve pupils. These activities enable pupils to understand the needs of others and what they can do to help. Their understanding of justice is further enriched by a range of texts linked to the curriculum. They reflect with compassion on characters who suffer or on situations that need improving. Pupils also demonstrate awareness of the importance of caring for the natural world by undertaking litter picks to protect animals. On other occasions, they have shown initiative in their immediate environment. For example, feeling disappointed at the animal excrement left on the local roads, they successfully initiated a poster campaign to address this. Pupils effectively reflect on how, together, they can build a better world.

Religious education

Leaders have successfully collaborated to review and revise the RE curriculum to meet the needs of pupils. As a result, units of learning are progressively built over time. This ensures that pupils are developing an understanding of how Christianity and world religions are celebrated and practiced. Significant support has been provided by the diocese and the partnership with local schools to enhance the provision in RE. Monitoring class work, in addition to shared best practice and training, have enabled staff to grow in confidence in their teaching. As a result, pupils are presented with a widening range of resources and activities that enrich learning. Pupils engage in artistic activities that allow them to reflect on the themes covered. Their knowledge of world faiths is deepened through visits from representatives of Christianity and Islam. In this way belief is seen as a lived reality. At present there are limited opportunities for pupils to respond to their learning in RE. As a result, they do not reflect and explore their own worldview to help inform how they live in the world.

Information

Address	Church Lane, Witley, Godalming, Surrey GU8 5PN		
Date	30 June 2026	URN	125159
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	75
Diocese	Guildford		
Headteacher	Helen Szczepanski		
Chair of Governors	Susan Edwards and Samantha Squires (co-chairs)		
Inspector	Elizabeth Pettersen		