

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Low Trenchard Church of England Primary School

Vision

L E W - Love Equity Wisdom

Together we grow in wisdom inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan – showing compassion to others, upholding dignity, supporting the potential in everyone.

Low Trenchard 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

- A simple and memorable Christian vision is at the heart of the school. Rooted in the parable of the Good Samaritan, it inspires people to live and work well together.
- The established Christian vision creates and sustains a culture where people have high expectations of themselves and of each other. Kindness and forgiveness are part of everyday experience.
- Welcoming and varied collective worship provides a safe space for pupils and adults to reflect spiritually.
- Encouragement and support from governors, the church, the multi-academy trust (the MAT) and the diocese ensure that the curriculum for religious education (RE) is relevant and effective.

Development Points

- Deepen the work on spirituality and enable the revised approach to become established. This is to ensure that there is an accessible framework that supports pupils and adults' spiritual reflection.
- Extend pupils' understanding of justice. This is to help them to apply their understanding of equity independently and in new situations.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision is integral to the life and work of the school. Adults' explicit teaching and consistent modelling of love, equity and wisdom enables people quickly to understand it. The parable of the Good Samaritan appeals to pupils and inspires them to action. They consider it more effective than 'adults just telling us to be kind'. The acronym 'LEW', reflecting the local area, makes the vision memorable. 'LEW' helps leaders to act wisely and with love when faced with difficult decisions. It supports the school community during times of sadness. It shapes policies and creates the foundation on which leaders build an empathetic culture where people thrive. Governors evaluate the impact of the Christian vision as part of their regular monitoring. Along with rich seams of evaluation from pupils and adults, this provides valuable information which helps leaders plan for future improvements. The MAT vision, of inspiring justice, mercy and humility, aligns closely. The school's partnership with the MAT brings benefits of additional expertise, resources and training. This all takes place in a context of mutual understanding and respect.

Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision underpins the curriculum. Leaders plan with love, wisdom and a commitment to equity for all pupils. Adults adapt learning for those who are considered vulnerable and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The vision shapes the school's commitment to offering accessible and inclusive extracurricular provision. For example, adults use a range of strategies to enable pupils to participate in challenging off-site activities. Leaders have identified opportunities across the curriculum which might nurture spirituality. These include experiencing joy through shared music-making, enjoying patterns in mathematics and challenging prejudice through art. The school has recently changed its approach to spirituality. Although this new, simpler approach is still at an early stage of implementation, pupils are beginning to find it helpful.

Worship and Spirituality

Pupils look forward to collective worship. A number of people, including staff, the incumbent and other church members, lead worship. They bring variety in the style and content of worship that supports spiritual flourishing for pupils and for adults. Different aspects include using simple Anglican responses, learning unfamiliar Bible stories, reflecting on Christian values and on caring for the planet. Pupils are inspired to write prayers and to pray spontaneously. Adults participate with gusto and their enthusiasm is infectious. Love and acceptance underpin collective worship. Pupils work with staff to help others settle and thrive. The welcoming nature of whole-school worship means that people want to be there. Leaders are committed to improving worship even further and to developing their own skills. They are quick to take advantage of opportunities to keep learning. Strong partnerships with the MAT and the diocese provide valued support.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The school's focus on equity is helping to develop pupils' understanding of justice. They show mature insight into differences between equity and equality and they put this into practice daily. Through the implementation of the Christian vision, pupils champion the needs of others for additional support or resources. They understand, for example, that some pupils might benefit from time walking the school dog before settling to their learning. Break-time protocols prioritise inclusion and encourage pupils to support one another. Pupil voice is strong and leaders receive and act on feedback with care and respect. In response, pupils volunteer when they see a need in the school. Service and stewardship are key themes as pupils contribute to their local community. The school's partnerships with the foodbank and with a residential home provide opportunities to serve. At the same time, they contribute to pupils' growing awareness of ways in which they can make a positive difference.



Religious Education

Well-informed support from governors, the MAT and the diocese ensures that the RE curriculum is relevant and effective. Leaders recognise the importance of RE within a Church school and they dedicate appropriate time and resources to it. Staff work closely with MAT colleagues and take advantage of local networks and online training to keep up-to-date. This regular support, along with high-quality resources, enables staff to teach RE with confidence and enjoyment. Adults' skill in adapting the curriculum means that the RE classroom is inclusive. Pupils work together, challenged by studying demanding texts, or supported by the use of pictures or sentences with gaps. The involvement of local church members enriches pupils' understanding of Christianity. Focussed church-led days, for example, deepen their awareness of Advent and of the Eucharist. Pupils enjoyed the challenge of studying some New Testament Greek and it inspired them to look for links with other subjects. Pupils respond with enthusiasm to the variety of approaches within the curriculum. They appreciate the way that RE encourages personal reflection on their own beliefs and values as they learn about different religions.

Vision and School Culture

The simplicity of the Christian vision makes it easy to remember. New pupils joining the school learn it quickly and soon put it into practice. Pupils are kind because they experience kindness. Even the youngest children understand the meaning of forgiveness. Pupils and adults know that they are loved. Relationships are strong. The vision is threaded throughout the school, in its policies and practice. The school's restorative approach to promoting good behaviour, for example, takes into consideration pupils' spiritual development. It recommends the use of prayer spaces and reflection areas as possible means of helping pupils to manage their feelings. The cohesive staff team provides mutual support during difficult times. Adults' consistent modelling of the vision inspires pupils to do the same. Trust policies, vigilant governors and attentive leaders in school all contribute to creating a gently compassionate culture that nurtures wellbeing.

Information

Address	Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4DP		
Date	19 June 2026	URN	144384
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	80 including 15 pre-school
Diocese	Exeter		
MAT	An Daras		
MAT Chair	Jonathan Sharpe		
Exec Headteacher Head of School	Louise Hussey Liz Davy		
Chair of Governors	Amy Crompton		
Inspector	Penny Burnside		