

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Longden Church of England Primary School

Vision

'Do unto others as you would have them do to you.' Luke 6:31

Care, Share and be Fair.

Our vision is for all members of our community to recognise their place in the world as a unique individual who is deeply loved by God, and that we all have a special part to play within it. We teach children to recognise and celebrate our wonderfully diverse world alongside our God given responsibility to care for it. We broaden children's knowledge and understanding of different people and places, promote a love of learning and encourage each other to do the best we can.

Longden Church of England 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

- The Christian vision of Longden Church of England Primary School is at the heart of the work and action of the leaders, staff and pupils. It establishes a culture of care for the members of its community and promotes togetherness.
- The planning and delivery of the school curriculum is driven by the Christian vision. This ensures that pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are nurtured and flourish.
- Collective worship is strengthened by a partnership with the local church community. Worship promotes the importance of the vision, embracing inclusivity and joy.
- In living out the vision of care and support, the wellbeing of pupils and adults is nurtured. The emotional needs of pupils are carefully considered, enabling them to grow in confidence.
- Pupils demonstrate a keen sense of responsibility for each other. They show kindness and respond to issues of injustice with compassion and determination.

Development Points

- Extend a consistent and active approach to spirituality in the school curriculum. This is to deepen the spiritual growth of pupils.
- Develop the religious education (RE) curriculum to include opportunities to understand Christianity as a global world faith. This is to expand pupils' knowledge of diversity in Christian beliefs and practices.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Longden Church of England Primary School is caring and inclusive. Its Christian vision is based on the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. The vision is at the heart of daily life so that pupils and adults grow together. Dedicated leaders shape strategies and policies around the vision with a clear focus on sharing and unity. Therefore, a nurturing culture recognises pupils' unique talents as they grow to appreciate their place in the world. They confidently articulate the vision and demonstrate compassion and respect in their relationships with each other. Strong partnerships with the local church ensure that pupils and parents understand the significance of the school's Christian foundation. Diligent monitoring and evaluation of the vision by leaders, including governors, maintains a focus on growing unique individuals. Staff appreciate how the vision binds the school together so that they feel encouraged and confident in their roles. As a result, the vision effectively enables pupils and adults to flourish.

Vision and Curriculum

The vision influences curriculum planning in promoting a love of learning. For example, during English lessons teachers carefully select texts to support key Christian values, such as friendship and compassion. This encourages pupils to show empathy and respect to each other. Topics in science lessons spark imagination and pupils rightly share how much they enjoy investigations and experiments. An annual whole school walk through the village and the wider local area provides a day of unity. Pupils' understanding of their place in local history and the need to care for the environment grows through this popular activity. The vision supports an accessible curriculum where individual needs are met. Pupils who have SEND value opportunities to shine in front of others and are encouraged and accepted. Leaders plan for each pupil to represent the school in extra-curricular activities. This illustrates the importance of fairness demonstrated by considerate staff. Although times of reflection occur in lessons, moments for spiritual expression are not intrinsic within subject plans. This limits pupils' spiritual growth within the curriculum.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is valued as a joyful time for pupils and adults to grow together. Careful planning involves the views of pupils as well as leaders from the church community. A strong partnership with the local church strengthens an understanding of Bible stories and teaching. The Christian vision and associated values are regularly explored in worship to ensure they are meaningful in daily life. During the weekly celebration worship, pupils are recognised and rewarded for living out the vision to care, share and be fair. Formal greetings and the lighting of candles allow pupils to consider the significance of this spiritual time. It also demonstrates an appreciation of Anglican traditions. Shared resources from the diocese promote curiosity. Deep questions prompt pupils and adults to apply the meaning of stories to their own lives. For example, investigating the story of Noah generates reflections for those recently affected by flooding. The use of varied music from around the world develops an understanding of the diversity of Christian worship. This inspiring and imaginative practice enables pupils and adults to grow spiritually through times of worship.

Vision and School Culture

The priority of treating each other well is seen in how pupils live out the vision. They share strong bonds with each other and enjoy learning and playing as a united body. The importance of wellbeing is modelled by leaders with pupils and adults showing care and respect. Newer staff share how quickly they are welcomed. Families also rightly reflect how much they feel valued and listened to. This creates a sense of trust and togetherness throughout the school. Pupils demonstrate compassion through supporting others with an arm around the shoulder and kind words. Their actions clearly highlight the positive impact of the vision on their relationships. Carefully created policies around behaviour and anti-bullying display the importance of the vision at the centre of daily life. As a result, pupils articulate the need for forgiveness and reconciliation when managing an issue. A



range of effective strategies for mental health empowers pupils to be resilient. For those who have SEND, individual plans ensure they have equity and grow in confidence. The provision of spaces for reflection in classrooms supports pupil wellbeing. This allows them time for calm reflection and an opportunity for personal prayer.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Leaders emphasise the importance of respectful relationships through the vision's biblical roots. It reflects Jesus' teaching to 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' Pupil's deep understanding of fairness drives their need to take responsibility for their actions. Through curriculum learning, pupils encounter a range of justice related issues. This motivates them to respond, for example writing persuasive letters to national leaders. The pupil council initiates charitable activities that focus on poverty and raising awareness of inequality. Driven by a vision to share, pupils donate to a local foodbank as they appreciate the impact of hunger faced by some families. Through local partnerships, pupils understand the importance of safety in the village. This generates campaigns to raise awareness of careful driving. Therefore, pupils gain a keen sense of responsibility and belonging within the community.

Religious Education

RE is given a high priority and is valued as a key subject. Leaders, including governors, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum, which contributes to imaginative schemes of learning. With support from the diocese, leaders ensure staff are trained to deliver engaging activities that stimulate enquiry. The curriculum explores thought provoking questions in Christianity whilst also considering diverse religions and worldviews. Opportunities to visit places of worship enhance pupils' first-hand experiences. However, a limited focus on Christianity as a global faith restricts an understanding of the diversity in its beliefs and practices.

The quality of RE teaching enables pupils to progress in line with expectations. Lessons based on enquiry and challenging questions spark discussions and enthusiasm to search for answers. Using a range of resources, topics are well sequenced so that pupils deepen their knowledge as they progress in their learning. However, there are occasions when activities lack challenge for the most able pupils. Planning is inclusive so that those who have SEND progress effectively. By exploring a variety of religious and non-religious practices, pupils make connections that enable them to develop their own thinking.

Information

Address	Plealey Road, Longden, Shropshire. SY5 8EX		
Date	14 January 2026	URN	123546
Type of school	Voluntary aided	No. of pupils	118
Diocese	Hereford		
Headteacher	Sally Johnson		
Chair of Governors	Jacinta Walton		
Inspector	Keith Farquhar		