Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Littleham Church of England Primary School

Vision

At Littleham Church of England Primary School, our vision, “Greatness grows from small beginnings,” is rooted in Jesus’ Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31–32), reminding us that something small can grow into something mighty and magnificent. Our Littleham ABCs are rooted in Jesus’ teaching through three parables: Aspiration through the Mustard Seed, Belonging through the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3–7), and Compassion through the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37). Together, these shape our Growing Greatness culture, encouraging every child to recognise their potential, value others and flourish regardless of their starting point.

Littleham 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 and values are shaping the culture at Littleham. Pupils are ‘growing greatness’ due to the school's focus on developing their values of aspiration, belonging and compassion.
- The vision is creating a positive ethos of care for the wellbeing and mental health of pupils and adults.
- The highly effective partnership with local churches enhances the worshipping life of the school. It also broadens the wider curriculum offer and provides practical help for the community.
- Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and those who are considered vulnerable, are carefully supported to thrive. They achieve this through staff taking time to deeply understand pupils’ needs.
- The curriculum is shaped by the school’s Christian vision and values. Lessons are designed effectively to ‘grow greatness’ and to develop aspiration, belonging and compassion. Leaders plan wider curricular opportunities to expand pupils’ horizons.

Development Points

- Develop the school’s approach to spirituality. Extend pupils’ ability to think more deeply about their relationship with others. Develop their appreciation of the beauty and diversity of the world and what might lie beyond. This is so pupils grow greater self-awareness and deepen relationships with others and the wider world.
- Ensure that monitoring of aspects of Church school life is shared with local governors and trustees. This is so they can fully evaluate provision, support and hold the school to account.
- Develop the school’s approach to teaching justice and responsibility. This is so that pupils are enabled to make ethical choices and make a positive contribution to others and the world around them.

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Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision of 'greatness grows from small beginnings' is mobilising the community at Littleham to enable pupils and adults to flourish. The school has been through a turbulent few years. Trust, school and church leaders are working together effectively to stabilise and strengthen the school. Recently appointed leaders have been supported by the diocese to renew the vision. This has resulted in a shared set of higher expectations for the school community. Pupils and adults now have an understanding of what learning and living well together at Littleham looks like. Pupils know that they should aspire to be their best. Staff work hard to ensure a strong sense of belonging for pupils and their families. Mutual compassion and respect is standard. This shared vision is creating a happy, thriving culture where families are well served by the school. Members of the ethos group monitor the Christian distinctiveness of school life. However, this is not routinely being shared with or evaluated by local governors or trustees. This results in governors at the local and trust levels being unable to provide the full level of support and challenge.

Vision and Curriculum

'Growing greatness' shapes the curriculum offer. Leaders aim to widen opportunities and raise expectations for pupils. For this reason, teachers design the curriculum to extend pupils' experiences. This occurs through trips and residentials, but also in routine lessons. For example, pupils attend 'beach school' regularly. This helps them understand the impact of climate change, and stewardship for God's creation. Leaders have recently introduced a new school approach to developing spirituality. Teachers challenge pupils to develop a deeper understanding of themselves and of others. The trust is providing opportunities for pupils to learn alongside those from other schools in sports competitions and shared trips. Leaders enable staff so that they are well equipped to meet a diverse range of pupils' need. Lessons are shaped to ensure pupils can flourish, and additional support is available where required. Leaders work well with external providers to make sure that pupils who have SEND or poor mental health are able to thrive. The school approach to spiritual development is new and not yet fully embedded. Consequently, pupils struggle to think deeply or to understand other people's beliefs and worldviews.

Worship and Spirituality

Daily collective worship lies at the heart of school life at Littleham. It is a special occasion when adults and pupils come together to experience the joy of belonging and community. Worship provides time for adults and pupils to enjoy peace, calm and stillness. This in turn helps to regulate emotions and expand thinking: candles are lit, pupils are invited to reflect and pray. Bible stories, the school vision and values are used to inspire the pupils' attitudes and behaviour. Worship is inclusive regardless of pupils' faith or worldview. Pupils enjoy engaging in discussions, stories and prayers. Adults value the calm at the end of the busy school day. The local churches are an integral part of school life and the area's spiritual flourishing. School and church leaders work together to build relationships and hope to build a positive future within the community. The clergy team is well-known in the community. They nurture spiritual development when leading worship each week in school, and during the regular school worships in church.

Vision and School Culture

The vision is driving leaders to further enhance the school culture at Littleham. Trust and school leaders prioritise the wellbeing and mental health of pupils and adults. They have successfully focused their efforts on building positive relationships and confidence within the community. This has resulted in parents and pupils having a positive experience within the school. The school 'wraps its arms' around pupils and families who require additional help. Recent changes, such as appointments of new leaders and staff have resulted in a highly positive school culture. Staff wellbeing is a priority and adults provide caring support to one another to enable flourishing. A range of effective strategies, including the use of external partners, enables pupils' and adults' good mental health and wellbeing. This is supporting pupils and adults to flourish in confidence and mindset. This positive culture is supported by the team of clergy. They build relationships and boost wellbeing in the community using a range of strategies. For example, through providing practical and financial support to families or members of staff who are struggling. One of the local vicars leads the forest school lessons each week which supports the wellbeing of pupils.

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Vision, Justice and Responsibility Pupils view the vision and associated values as a set of expectations that they have responsibility to live up to at Littleham. They know they need to try their best, show compassion to others, and ensure that everyone experiences belonging. The school values have been crafted into a school charter; a list of non-negotiable expectations for all. In addition, pupils take on further responsibilities as they grow older. They might take part in the 'growing greatness' group which works with leaders to improve the school. Some pupils are play leaders or take responsibility to help during collective worship. Pupils also learn about fairness and justice especially during collective worship and some subject lessons. This helps them understand that they need to help others and care for the world around them. However, the school's approach to justice and responsibility is underdeveloped. Currently, there are limited opportunities for pupils to make ethical choices, or to take action to make a positive difference. Therefore, they are not fully able to explore their role in justice and responsibility to others, which limits their understanding.
Religious Education Religious education (RE) has a high profile in the school, and pupils receive weekly lessons. The subject's curriculum is designed to ensure that pupils learn about an appropriate balance of a range of world religions including Christianity and non-religious worldviews. Units are sequenced so that pupils can build on prior knowledge. Pupils enjoy their learning in RE. They explore their own personal beliefs as well as their peers' worldviews. They investigate a range of sources such as religious texts, videos and pictures to build on their knowledge. This means that pupils including those who have SEND or those who are considered vulnerable can thrive in their learning. Teachers are provided with professional development and resources so that they deliver lessons confidently.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Littledown Close, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2QY		
Date	14 October 2026	URN	150836
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	76
Diocese	Exeter		
MAT	Link Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	Cheryl Mathieson		
Headteacher	Ashleigh Tubbs		
Chair of Governors	Corrina Tigg		
Inspector	Claire Tindal		

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