

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School

Vision

Though your beginning was small, your future will flourish indeed: Job 8:7

Dr Walker's 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 associated values are biblically rooted and underpin daily life at Dr Walker's Church of England Primary school. This directs the work of leaders and supports pupils and adults to flourish.
- The highly effective and collaborative partnership with Life Education Trust drives the school forward. The shared vision enables adults and pupils to benefit from wider opportunities. This broadens horizons and enriches the sense of ambition that leaders have for pupils and adults.
- There is a strong sense of togetherness and support for each other within the school. This includes pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those who are considered vulnerable.
- The wellbeing of pupils and adults is central to school life. Effective pastoral support underpins a culture of wellbeing and positive mental health. This contributes to the nurturing environment where staff and pupils feel highly valued and are able to thrive.

Development Points

- Extend pupils' understanding of justice. This is so that they can relate it to themselves and understand how they can make a difference.
- Develop the religious education (RE) curriculum so that pupils are aware of the diverse range of practices within beliefs and worldviews. This is to deepen their understanding of how religions and beliefs are lived and experienced worldwide.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Dr Walker's Church of England Primary school is a welcoming place. Its Christian vision, alongside its associated values, are embedded and central to daily school life. The vision shapes the work of the school, guiding actions and decisions and is understood by both adults and pupils. As a result, there is a strong sense of togetherness which reflects the school's inclusive and supportive ethos. This is evident across the breadth of school life. The Christian values guide pupils in making positive behaviour choices. For example, they act with compassion towards each other, enabling them to support their peers. This leads to a clear sense of cohesion and togetherness within the school community. The school's vision closely aligns with that of the trust, fostering an effective, collaborative partnership. This shared vision is evident through the strategic decisions which clearly meet the needs of the school. Supportive staff reviews reinforce a culture where adults feel recognised, valued and able to flourish. Wider partnerships offer adults and pupils meaningful opportunities to thrive, particularly through close work with the local hub network.

Vision and Curriculum

The vision underpins the curriculum, with support where needed, to ensure that pupils can access learning from their different starting points. This results in enthusiastic pupils who are inspired to achieve their best. Adults are ambitious for pupils and work closely with them to enable them to be successful. This helps them to develop the skills and knowledge needed to flourish. Curriculum adaptations for those pupils deemed to be vulnerable and those with SEND are precise and effective. Leaders and staff ensure pupils are recognised as the unique individual they are, providing tailored provision to help them succeed. Parents value opportunities to engage in school life, including weekly reading sessions. This fosters an inclusive community where members are valued and treated equally. Planned opportunities for spirituality are thoughtfully woven throughout the curriculum. For example, carefully selected texts in English support pupils' spiritual development. Leaders ensure pupils have opportunities to reflect deeply across a range of subjects. The school makes highly effective use of its outdoor environment and this is easily accessible. The spiritual garden provides a calm space for individual reflection, providing meaningful moments for stillness and times of quiet. This enhances the way that wider curricular experiences support pupils' spiritual growth. Pupils embrace a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including activities such as dance, Lego club and board games. As a result, they are enthusiastic and engage positively with school life. They demonstrate a strong desire to be successful.

Worship and Spirituality

Pupils and adults value gathering for collective worship, which creates a sense of togetherness. A rich variety of worship styles supports their spiritual development. This enables pupils and adults to engage meaningfully. Church groups from the wider community regularly lead worship. These drama-based sessions make biblical links, reinforcing the school's Christian values. Pupils are enthusiastic and keen to participate, giving them a sense of ownership and fostering their enjoyment of worship. Collective worship is carefully planned and well structured. Skilful adaptation and high-quality resources ensure strong inclusion. Pupils' engagement with the friendship board is an example of how the values impact on daily school life. Through such activities, worship supports their personal development in a meaningful way. Strong partnerships with the local church enable the school to regularly visit St Nicholas' for key occasions. These include leavers' celebrations, Christmas, Easter and May Day, broadening pupils' understanding of the ways that people worship. Links with the local church strengthen a sense of togetherness beyond the school. Governors monitor and evaluate worship ensuring it remains relevant, inclusive and spiritually enriching.



Vision and School Culture

Wellbeing and positive mental health are a key area of focus within the life of the school. Leaders prioritise staff development, ensuring adults are equipped to flourish in their roles. This fosters a culture where individuals are listened to and valued. It creates a strong sense of growing together across the school community. Driven by the Christian vision and associated values, adults and pupils demonstrate compassion and mutual care for each other. A strong inclusive ethos is evident throughout the school. Targeted provision supports pupils where needed. This equips them with the tools they need to be successful. Leaders, including governors, actively consider staff wellbeing and workload. As a result, adults feel valued and respected. Effective communication with families, linked to the Christian values, strengthens positive relationships. This leads to a culture of mutual trust. Parents recognise and value how well staff know and understand their children. Opportunities to engage in school life, such as weekly reading activities and collective worship, are well received. This strengthens the sense of learning together. The extended day provision, including breakfast club, offers a broad range of enriching activities. As a result, pupils, including those considered vulnerable, thrive across school life.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The Christian vision is modelled consistently by adults, inspiring pupils to act with respect and understanding towards others. Pupils actively live out the vision through a range of leadership roles, including librarians and prefects. This gives a sense of serving one another and having responsibility for the school environment. Through the Pupil Parliament, pupils lead and support peers to make positive contributions. They demonstrate an understanding of how their actions impact upon the lives of others. For example, recognising how their Harvest contributions and charity donations benefit those in need. They enjoy opportunities for discussion, particularly in response to key questions. Pupils' values guide them to respect the opinions of others. Although they have some understanding of fairness within their own environment, they do not have a broader sense of justice within the wider world. This narrows their understanding of the different ways that they can challenge injustice and make a difference.

Religious Education

RE is effective and its place within the taught curriculum reflects the distinctive character of this Church school. The RE curriculum is well sequenced, balanced and relevant. It provides opportunities for pupils to use their skills to build on prior knowledge, including comparing differences within faiths. Higher level questioning promotes curiosity and deeper thinking in learning. Effective evaluation of the subject ensures adults are aspirational for pupils, with learning being skilfully adapted to meet their individual needs. This helps them to be successful and they are proud of their achievements. Pupils demonstrate a good understanding of selected religions and non-religious worldviews. However, their understanding of the diverse ways that people live out their beliefs and worldviews is limited. School and trust leaders work collaboratively with the diocese to provide strong professional development for staff. This builds staff confidence and supports consistently high-quality RE provision. As a result, pupils thrive in this area.

Information

Address	Walker Ave, Fyfield, Ongar CM5 0RG		
Date	20 April 2026	URN	151943
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	54
Diocese	Chelmsford		
MAT	LIFE Education Trust		
MAT CEO	Julian Dutnall		
Head of School	Jennifer Dean		
Executive Headteacher	Melissa Taylor		
Chair of Governors	David Turrell		
Inspector	Sarah Wickens		