

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

### Deal Parochial Church of England Primary School

**Address** Gladstone Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7ER

#### Christian vision

Our School is built on the teachings of the Bible and inspired by The Gospel Values of Faith, Hope and Love. Our Christian ethos is upheld by respecting humanity fostered through our community that is welcoming, inclusive and forgiving.

Together we flourish through courageous learning, friendships and generosity.

TO BE THE BEST THAT I CAN BE – THE WAY GOD INTENDS

#### School strengths

- The school's Christian vision, firmly rooted in biblical teaching, relentlessly drives school improvement and practice within every aspect of school life. As a result, staff and pupils can be their best, as God intended.
- The school champions the worth, value and place of every member of the school community, through nurture, compassion and tailored provision. This respect for humanity enables all pupils to embrace experiences for growth in body, mind and spirit. Staff are also empowered to be the best that they can be, professionally and personally.
- The school's vision of enabling all to be courageous learners drives an inclusive curriculum. It is successfully tailored to meet the learning needs of all pupils.
- Pupils respond enthusiastically to collective worship, which is well-planned to support the vision. Collective worship contributes deeply to the spiritual development of both pupils and adults.
- Religious education (RE) is very well-led and is a living expression of the commitment to flourish together. Effective assessment strategies underpin pupils' progress in their studies and ensure that they are challenged effectively in their learning.

#### Areas for development

- Increase the school's outward looking nature by extending the range of partnerships. This will foster the professional development of all staff and further sustain on-going school developments.
- Deepen pupils' thinking about justice and personal responsibility. This is so that they become even more confident as independent advocates for change for themselves and others.

## Inspection findings

The school's Christian vision relentlessly drives school improvement and underpins every aspect of daily school life. It is central to all conversations, inspiring a consistent focus on providing the best for every individual within the school community. Motivated by Bible teachings, a respect for humanity is fostered at every level within caring and compassionate relationships. All speak with confidence about the story of the feeding of the five thousand and how this reflects the life of their school. In this way, each pupil is treasured and is at the heart of decision making. Everyone has something of value to contribute to the school community so that all succeed in every way. Governors have a deep understanding of the school and its needs. Their monitoring and evaluation enables them to recognise how the vision fuels the life of the school. The school works closely with Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust (DEALT). The trust and school are united in a collaborative and shared journey of improving school strategy and provision. Whilst respecting the individuality of the school, the trust works in harmony with the school's vision to enable all to thrive. This mutual support ensures the effective professional development of staff. In line with its vision, leaders are outward-looking in all their activities. A range of effective partnerships significantly enhances school life. Some staff feel confident in initiating partnerships themselves, thus enriching their engagement with Church school life.

Curriculum planning is driven by the conviction that all flourish through courageous learning. Thus, the placing of pupils at the centre of leaders' decisions results in an engaging curriculum. This includes projects that link to the geography and history of the local community. Curriculum planning is also driven by pupil voice. For example, a cooking school was initiated following a pupil request. The value leaders place on the individual growth results in personalised provision for vulnerable pupils. Underpinned by a wide range of training for different needs, staff are equipped and empowered to support each pupil. Practical experiences, school trips and a wide range of sporting and extracurricular activities enrich learning. This impacts positively on pupils' engagement in their studies and school attendance. Staff have a clear understanding of spiritual development. This helps foster pupils' connections with who they are, with others and their environment.

Collective worship is exceptional because it is very well-led. Worship truly brings to life the transforming power of the school's Christian vision. Centred on stories from the Bible, all gain a meaningful sense of their value and worth within the eyes of God. Pupils plan and lead worship with great confidence which enhances the worship experience of all. Enthusiastic singing is a notable strength of worship. For some this helps them connect closely with God, but for all it creates a great sense of wellbeing. Meaningful and engaging themes inspire pupils to reflect on their own behaviours and attitudes towards each other. Pupils show an impressive depth of thought within their prayers and reflections. This fosters the growth of a caring and harmonious school environment, as well as nurturing the exceptional spiritual flourishing of all. The whole school community cherishes pupil-led services in church. Members of clergy from the local group of churches make a significant contribution to the spiritual life of the school. They regularly lead worship and support pastoral needs. In living out its vision, the school has effectively supported and developed the worship of other schools in the trust.

Deal Parochial is a community where everyone lives well together. All are surrounded by loving relationships which create a powerful sense of belonging. Staff consistently model the school's Christian values in their dialogue and interactions. This, in turn, impacts on how pupils treat each other. They readily welcome newcomers, showing a deep desire to ensure that no one is left out. The consistent compassion and care shown to parents creates a welcoming environment. This helps generate a great sense of trust in the school to provide the best for their child. Staff encourage pupils to use 'mending conversations' to discuss and resolve issues independently. As a result, pupils are confident in managing any difficulties that they encounter with their friendships. The high value placed on each individual creates a rich environment where forgiveness and the quality of friendship are central. Pupils develop strength of character through a belief that they have the resources within themselves to overcome any challenge. Staff consciously seek to support each other personally as well as professionally. As a result, they have a positive approach to their mental health and

wellbeing. Opportunities to work with colleagues across the trust ensure that staff feel supported professionally.

The school vision, based on respect for humanity, shapes how adults and pupils understand justice and personal responsibility. Everyone is given opportunities to lead and contribute. Pupils take immense pride in their active participation in the daily life of the school. School leaders are strong role models, enthusing pupils to be motivators for change. For example, pupils were inspired by the journey of a refugee and the indignities, hopes and dreams that this generated. This resulted in pupils packing a rucksack of essential items and fundraising. Activities like this create a huge sense of compassion for, and understanding of, those in need. Some classes are engaged with a ‘young leaders award’ which is developing pupils’ skills in leadership and character through social action. However, for the majority, adults introduce endeavours, rather than pupils initiating projects themselves.

RE has a high status in the school and is well-led and resourced. Working alongside the RE lead and the diocese, staff are fully supported in their teaching. This partnership generates inspiring lessons, sparking pupils’ enthusiasm and enjoyment in discussion. They listen readily to each other, recognising that the classroom is a safe place to express their own ideas and thoughts. Pupils are encouraged to respond in a range of imaginative ways, including through art and drama. As a result, pupils engage and reflect well in RE, demonstrating good understanding, particularly of Christianity. Teaching of other world faiths and worldviews is carefully sequenced. A visit to a Gurdwara was an inspirational highlight for pupils’ learning. There is a deep sense of collaboration across the trust that prioritises the success of other schools equally to their own. This is exemplified in the shared monitoring and evaluation of work in RE books with other trust schools. As a result, the RE curriculum is challenging and engaging. In turn, other schools are inspired to follow the work at Deal Parochial. This includes the skillful use of RE related vocabulary. Effective tracking of individuals ensures that the majority of pupils make at least expected progress. Questions within marking ensure that pupils are challenged and think intensely about their learning. Further questions at the beginning and end of topics effectively evaluate the depth of pupil learning through a theme.

Deal Parochial is a caring and supportive community, bonded around its Christian vision and biblical teaching. The high value placed on each one enables all to be the best that they can be, the way that God intends.

The inspection findings indicate that Deal Parochial Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information					
School	Deal Parochial Church of England Primary School				
URN	147053	Pupils on roll	192	VA/VC/Academy	VA
Diocese/Circuit	Canterbury				
Multi academy trust	Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust (DEALT)				
Federation					
Headteacher	Justine Brown				
Chair of governors	Mary Heard				
Inspector	Elizabeth Pettersen		No.	557	
Date of Inspection	19 September 2023				