

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Denver Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Vision

Guided by our vision, “Let your light shine” (Matthew 5:16), we aim to discover, value, celebrate, and praise each individual, upholding Christian principles, and fostering hard work and mutual respect. Our vision is embedded throughout our Christian values of hope, peace, wisdom, tolerance, thankfulness, perseverance, compassion, friendship, generosity, forgiveness, justice and love, focusing on one each half term. We strive to develop the whole child—academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually—through high-quality education, individual support, and opportunities for reflection. Our goal is to nurture caring, responsible, and independent pupils and adults who respect others and contribute positively to their communities.

Denver Church of England Voluntary Controlled 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 is clearly discernible. It has been carefully crafted by leaders, governors and staff. This enables pupils and adults to discover, celebrate, and value their unique potential. Wise decision making by leaders and governors strengthens the life of this Church school.
- Christian values underpin provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those deemed vulnerable or disadvantaged.
- Rooted in the school’s Christian vision and values, pupils and adults live well together. Leadership is characterised by a culture of wellbeing and care for others. This positively impacts the school’s inclusive way of life and ethos.
- The school is a firm anchor within its neighbourhood supported by the church, diocese and community links.
- Inclusive and invitational collective worship reflects the school’s Anglican foundation. It uses its links with the local church to enhance worship and to aid spiritual development.

Development Points

- Extend pupils’ exploration and understanding of varied ways of learning across a range of religions and worldviews. This is to enable them to have opportunities to be inspired and to widen their perspectives.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

A commitment to the vision that pupils and adults “let their light shine” is lived out at Denver Primary School. It guides and directs the work of school leaders and governors as they establish and communicate the belief that each child is unique and valued. Pupils are actively supported to understand what ‘discover, value, celebrate and praise’ means for them. The vision for pupils to be caring, responsible and thoughtful members of society underpins school life. Success is celebrated not only in academic, sporting and musical achievement. It is also reflected in pupils and adults’ personal development, and their care and nurture of each other. The governing body strategically supports the school, regularly visiting to assess, evaluate and challenge the vision’s impact. These processes lead to dialogue and, if necessary, change and improvement within school practice. Leaders received support from the local diocese education team whilst reviewing their RE curriculum. Within this popular school, relationships with families and the wider community are nurturing. Foundation governors prioritise staff wellbeing by being accessible and regularly communicating with them.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum is intentionally designed and clearly rooted within the school’s Christian vision. It inspires high expectations and aspiration for pupils to reach their individual potential. Leaders ensure the school values are reflected across curriculum areas through careful monitoring and evaluation. Diverse texts and resources enable pupils to ask questions and respond thoughtfully to the world beyond their immediate rural environment. Inclusion allows pupils who have SEND and those deemed vulnerable, to receive support whilst working alongside their peers. Spiritual development is intrinsic in the way pupils respond to learning. They regularly reflect on their successes and challenges. Pupils share personal experiences of spiritual growth in the classroom. Opportunities for awe, wonder and connection with the natural world are established in outdoor learning. Indoor and outdoor reflective and spirituality spaces give pupils further opportunities to experience spiritual flourishing. A wide range of extracurricular activities allow pupils to explore new interests and skills. Active fund raising ensures residential trips, visits and activities are universally accessible. As a result, pupils thrive and are successful in their learning.

Worship and Spirituality

Inclusive and invitational worship provide opportunities for the school community to gather and thoughtfully consider the school’s vision and values. These occasions contribute much to the spiritual life of the school. Rooted in Anglican traditions, it is planned by the collective worship leader and supported by local clergy. It gives pupils and adults opportunities to develop spiritually. All teachers lead worship during the week, rightfully allowing it prominence within school life. Worship is fully inclusive, staff sensitively support vulnerable pupils, enabling them to take part meaningfully. Everyone is invited to participate; a morning blessing provides adults who cannot attend with a daily chance for spiritual reflection. A wide range of visitors from nearby church communities and Christian drama groups tell Bible stories. These valued occasions provide pupils with further skills for navigating life beyond school. Worship is also a time to praise and celebrate individual gifts and success. Joyful singing and prayer are part of worship, many prayers are written by pupils, contributing to spiritual flourishing. Worship ambassadors collect feedback from pupils, helping leaders gain insight into how values resonate and connect with pupils. Families enjoy the sense of spiritually belonging and sharing in pupils’ success when coming to celebration worship. They also appreciate joining services at the parish church for festivals and special events. These occasions enhance the spiritual life of the school. Links with the local church of St Mary’s are strong and valued. By showcasing pupils’ work the church participates in the school vision. This enriches the shared spiritual connection between the school, family and church community.

Vision and School Culture

The vision powerfully affects the culture of this school. Positive wellbeing is an essential ingredient to school life. Embedding the vision and values impacts pupils’ attitude and behaviour. They effortlessly accept those different



to themselves. Establishing an effective positive behaviour policy, staff hold restorative conversations with pupils, reflecting on behaviour choices and emotions. Compassionate and approachable staff, value and respect families' perspectives. Leaders provide an environment that supports the wellbeing of staff. They are appreciative of the commitment adults at the school dedicate to their roles. Staff are treated with equity and dignity; they are a close-knit group who also intuitively support and care for each other. Caring clergy are visible in daily school life, offering pastoral support to both staff and families. Living its vision, the school is visible within its community. This includes inter-generational projects within the village, enabling the school to remain central to the life of its neighbourhood.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The Christian vision of this school seeks to develop pupils as responsible, ethical and compassionate individuals. Together with staff the school creates a culture of justice and equality. Through its curriculum and relationships pupils are taught to build their lives on solid, principled foundations. Pupils seek personal responsibility to speak and act against injustice. For example, visiting local schools in Kenya and donating educational resources or car washing for Teenager Cancer Trust. Pupils feel safe to express their own ideas and opinions during curriculum learning. In partnership with the church the eco council promotes environmental stewardship. Their dedication to this has contributed to the school achieving the Eco-Schools Award. Pupils have many other opportunities to assume leadership responsibilities ranging from school councillors, sports leaders, playground buddies and travel ambassadors. These roles give pupils an opportunity to serve others. The school community is generous and outward looking. Pupils and families engage in a wide range of charitable projects during the year.

Religious Education

To support the school's vision to foster Christian values including, mutual respect and tolerance, leaders have implemented a new RE syllabus and curriculum. As a result, pupils are gaining a deeper understanding of religious knowledge. They are clear on the importance of understanding, and acceptance of diverse religious beliefs. However, there is insufficient focus on consideration of a range of worldviews. Visits to places of worship of other faiths such as the Cambridge Mosque and the Norwich Synagogue give pupils real-life experiences. These allow pupils to widen their perspectives of how people might choose to express their faith. RE is further enriched through termly whole school RE days such as the one on creative prayer. During this time pupils have opportunities to think and explore issues of spirituality and what prayer means to them. Pupils and adults feel school is a safe and respectful place to explore the bigger questions life has to offer. Through newly established enquiry based questions, pupils are embarking on different ways of learning. They are encouraged to ask thoughtfully, think critically and reflect on their personal response to faith. However the impact of this is not fully evident. Through training from the local diocese, staff are developing a deeper growth in understanding and confidence.

Information

Address	17, Royston Road, Denver, Norfolk PE38 0DPF		
Date	25 March 2026	URN	121069
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	108
Diocese	Diocese of Ely		
Headteacher	Louise Jones		
Chair of Governors	Carole Reich		
Inspector	Teresa Osborne		