

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

### Creeting St Mary CEVAP School

#### Vision

At Creeting St Mary CEVA Primary School our vision is to support our pupils as they strive to achieve the aspirational challenges we set for them spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally. As a school founded on and rooted in the Christian faith and values, we follow Jesus' teaching; 'Anything is possible for those who believe' Mark 9v23.

In our school everyone knows everyone else, we embrace the Christian values of love, respect, perseverance, wisdom, hope and community. We endeavour to develop the whole person, live well together and offer rich experiences to live life in all its fullness.

Creeting St Mary CEVAP 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.

#### Strengths

- A nurturing, caring culture is inspired by the school vision and supporting values. Every child is well-known by staff, and the focus is on meeting the needs of each individual child. This means pupils and adults are treated well and flourish as a result.
- Dedicated leaders live out the aspirational vision and consequently offer professional and educational experiences which enable pupils and staff to flourish. They act and make strategic decisions in line with the vision and the best interests of the school community.
- Inspired by the vision, the school offers a rich curriculum, enhanced by impactful experiences and extra-curricular activities. It provides well for pupils in need of support and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Religious education (RE) is strong because it is carefully planned and well delivered. Consequently, pupils are inspired to respond enthusiastically and debate the big questions asked.
- Collective worship is well-planned and organised, incorporating the school's vision and associated values. The collective worship committee make a significant impact on worship and contribute to spiritual flourishing.

#### Development Points

- Enhance spiritual development through the curriculum, building on the shared approach. Use this to plan opportunities that nurture spirituality across the curriculum.
- Build on the RE curriculum to increase opportunities pupils have to develop a secure understanding of Christianity as a global, living faith.



## Inspection Findings

Warmth, care and a kind ethos inspired by the vision are offered by Creeping St Mary CEVA Primary School. The inclusive approach and strength of relationships ensure pupils and adults are respected and cared for. This nurturing culture enables pupils, including those who need additional support, to access every aspect of school life. Leaders, governors and staff support and promote the Christian vision, working together to provide an aspirational education. The principle that 'Everything is possible to those who believe' is meaningful and well-known by pupils and families. It is integral to the school's strategic direction and daily work. The school have been working collaboratively with the new Heart of Suffolk Education Trust, and as a result, leaders have made the decision to join in September. A carefully aligned vision, professional development and a seamless transition to high school for pupils are major benefits for Creeping. Leaders monitor the impact of the vision and carefully identify key priorities for school improvement as a result. These changes improve the experience, aspiration and self-belief of pupils.

Encouraged by the Christian vision, leaders equip pupils to be inquisitive, confident citizens. The whole school is motivated to work together and live out the vision through the values of respect and community. Consequently, pupils are collaborative and feel well supported in their learning, growth and development. A shared understanding and expression of spirituality is agreed and classrooms have areas for calm reflection. However, the way spirituality is implemented and planned for across the curriculum is not developed. Leaders are aware of the nature of this rural, village school and this informs the curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities offered. Enrichment activities and educational visits support the broadening of pupils' horizons. A history topic on Amelia Earhart drew parallels and discussion between her motto of 'just do it' and the Christian vision. The rich curriculum encourages curiosity and collaboration, so pupils develop wisdom, knowledge and skills for life. It has been carefully designed to meet the needs of all and strengthen learning in mixed age classes. Pupils are interested in their learning, respond positively and flourish. Adults accept and embrace needs and difference, compassionately supporting pupils to achieve their best and succeed.

Worship is relevant and memorable, and pupils are respectful and reflective. The pupil worship committee ably support every collective worship and are both proud of, and confident in, their role. A carefully planned worship programme underpinned by Christian values including love and respect, is relevant to the lives of pupils. Consequently, it is a valued part of the school day and has a positive impact on the pupils and staff. There is clear structure and routine, with opportunities for joyful song, prayerful response and reflection. To ensure all fully access the opportunity for spiritual growth, collective worship offers pupils and adults time to pray, think and reflect. Strong partnerships exist with the parish church and local places of Christian worship. Visiting St Mary's church for seasonal celebrations, as well as Thanksgiving and Eucharist services enable pupils to feel part of the wider Christian community. Worship is inclusive and as a result, helps to guide the actions of all, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

The Christian vision helps create an environment where pupils and families feel any concerns are listened to. Leaders demonstrate kindness and compassion, making sure they provide time and space for adults and pupils. As a result, parents are confident to approach the school. Pupils play harmoniously together and relationships throughout the school are welcoming, kind and respectful. The school is caring, and older pupils are allowed opportunities to nurture and encourage younger ones. Careful thought is given to all aspects of school life including catering for individual needs through constructive interventions. Positive transition arrangements result in new pupils being quickly welcomed and becoming confident members of the school community. The caring atmosphere



is appreciated by parents who value the compassionate provision made by the school in times of need. The open and friendly atmosphere is treasured, and parents and carers are very supportive of the work of the school. Leaders promote good mental health, demonstrated by regular wellbeing days for staff and pupils, who are supported, nurtured and consequently flourish.

Pupils live out the Christian vision through responsibility and leadership offered to them by leaders and staff. This includes school and eco councillors who take seriously their role of increasing awareness of environmental issues. Learning about plastic waste during a topic on Ocean day, inspired pupils to clean-up the beach on their educational visit. Junior road safety officers campaigned successfully to improve parking in the locality. Pupils make a difference to others through actively fundraising for charities such as the local foodbank. They take the initiative to write to local charities to find out how they can help. Through planned curriculum opportunities, such as the Windrush topic, pupils gain an understanding of injustice and thoughtfully discuss issues like immigration. Regular class worship challenges preconceptions and encourages debate around diversity and inclusion. Valuing everyone has shaped a culture where all are treated with dignity and respect. Partnerships with local schools and the diocese promote professional development opportunities and enable sharing of expertise. As a result, staff have high levels of confidence and feel well supported, therefore enhancing wellbeing.

RE has a high priority on the curriculum. It is well planned and balances the teaching of Christianity with world faiths. Leaders benefit from the support of the diocese, who provide training to ensure effective practice and knowledge is widely shared. RE is very well resourced. The scheme uses 'big questions' as a starting point and is thought-provoking. It engages the pupils and demands a range of responses, including debate, supporting pupils to flourish. On a journey to a recent educational visit, pupils quite naturally discussed 'How do you know God is real?'. This demonstrates the impact of the enquiry based RE teaching. The inspiring RE curriculum provides activities for pupils to gain an understanding of world faiths. However, opportunities for them to understand Christianity as a global faith are under-developed. They are proud of their work, consider RE an important subject and say they enjoy it. They confidently share personal views and understand that these will be respected and valued.

RE is regularly monitored by the subject leader through discussion with pupils, data and work scrutiny. Class books demonstrate thoughtfulness from pupils about their learning. This consistent monitoring of RE by leaders accurately demonstrates that teaching and learning is effective. Because of this, pupils, including those with SEND, make steady progress across the RE curriculum. Assessment and ongoing feedback ensure pupils understand their learning, build on it and make progress. A revised recording system is in place to clarify how teachers assess pupils' learning. Subject knowledge, supported by the diocese and scheme materials, is good. Teachers question and encourage debate, addressing misconceptions as they arise. Pupils are encouraged to articulate their thoughts and use subject vocabulary appropriately. Younger pupils say they enjoy RE lessons because 'We learn about God stuff'. Older pupils consider it important to learn about diverse religions and say it helps them to understand other people better.

## Information

Address	All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP68NF		
Date	3 July 2025	URN	124770
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	96
Diocese	St Edmundsbury and Ipswich		
Headteacher	Christine Friar		
Chair of Governors	Marianne Brame		
Inspector	Lynne Golding		