

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Brenzett Church of England VC Primary School

Vision

Through belonging, everyone flourishes in a purposeful, nurturing and inspiring learning environment that puts community and family at the heart of everything we do. All are seen as unique individuals, valued and precious in the eyes of Christ, who are aspirational champions of their own success, working together to succeed.

The story of the lost sheep – Luke 15 v 4-7

Strengths

- Driven by leaders who know their school, this is a nurturing community. It is built on a vision where adults and pupils belong and are valued.
- Friendship flows through Brenzett school with adults and pupils welcomed, accepted and celebrated. Excellent behaviour builds community and belonging such that members of this establishment have a voice.
- Collective worship unites the whole school family. Opportunities to reflect on the vision and its associated values of community, friendship, resilience, gratitude and respect abound.
- The curriculum is carefully planned to be purposeful, nurturing and inspiring, championing success for all pupils as unique individuals.
- Being part of Aquila, The Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust (MAT) has strengthened Brenzett's ability to live up to its foundation as a Church school. This enables adults and pupils to flourish.

Development Points

- Build on pupils' understanding and recognition of social justice so that they become individual and collective agents of change.
- Embed the opportunities for pupils and staff to explore their own spirituality in greater depth.
- Build on the current good practice in religious education (RE) by providing opportunities for pupils to use the big questions. This is to enhance their thinking and inform their opinions, ensuring that they find the subject relevant.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision creates a powerful sense of togetherness. Pupils, staff and governors express ownership of and commitment to the values of community, friendship, resilience, gratitude and respect. Consequently, both adults and pupils at Brenzett school flourish. Staff and pupils believe in each other and encourage one another to learn through resilience. The values can be seen in action across the school. This extends to the wide range of opportunities within the school and beyond. Inclusivity is embraced as part of the school's vision and so pupils with special educational needs and /disabilities (SEND) thrive. Parents commend the school for its vision, which impacts positively on their children, helping them on their journey to adulthood. Pupils are transformed as a result of the whole school team's commitment and compassion. Brenzett is a valued member of the Aquila Trust. The Trust's vision to 'soar on wings like eagles' resonates with the school vision, while allowing them to maintain their individuality.

The curriculum is deeply rooted in the Christian vision alongside its desire to nurture and inspire. Staff ensure pupils secure the crucial learning needed to experience success, encapsulating the vision's aim for aspirational learning. Pupils speak passionately about everyone being gifted in different ways and how this enables them to help each other achieve. Leaders acknowledge the school's unique location, and so provide opportunities to broaden and widen their life experiences. Staff's personal skills and interests are harnessed, enriching the breadth of activities accessible, such as forest school and gardening club. This encourages strong relationships between pupils and nature. Spirituality is intrinsically woven throughout the life of the school and its curriculum. Time to experience awe and wonder abound, helping pupils to explore their spirituality. Brenzett has benefited from the close working relationship with other schools in the Trust. This has resulted in resources, staff training and openings for pupils to engage with other schools. The staff lead for SEND is shared with another school, which has effectively supported pupils.

Collective worship at Brenzett is an integral part of school life. The Christian vision and values are central to all acts of worship. Daily worship is planned and structured to provide powerful opportunities to worship, praise and learn. An understanding of spirituality is growing through times of stillness and reflection in worship. Pupils are encouraged to contemplate and are provided with many and varied areas to quietly ponder, both inside and outside the school. Pupils talk enthusiastically about the addition of the new quiet garden areas where they can be still and enjoy the nature around them. When asked about worship a pupils commented, 'Every time we go to worship it brings the community closer together'. Worship is inclusive enabling all to actively engage in their own way. Pupils aspire to become worship leaders. They enjoy planning to lead the Friday worship each week. This helps them to learn more about leadership associating it with the shepherd leading the lost sheep. The close links between church and school have a significant impact. Pupils talk about how much they enjoy clergy led worship. They learn more about God and are able to reflect on things they have done. This creates a kind and caring school environment. Opportunities to experience Christian festivals at the church enhance the worship offer. The church is not easily accessible, however the whole community come together to walk the children safely to services to celebrate festivals.

Brenzett school is the central hub of the village community. A sense of belonging, as well as astute and perceptive support for pupils, staff and parents is the lived experience at Brenzett. Relationships between the school, church and the village are extremely strong and mutually supportive. The vision underpins the commitment to make bold decisions for the well-being of those in their care. Staff, parents and pupils acknowledge the nurture and support they receive at difficult times. The Trust provides free, confidential



counselling when needed. This enables staff to feel they are well supported. The vision is clearly visible in the effective nurture provided for pupils with SEND. Staff know pupils and their families extremely well. There is a consistent and powerful priority to engage with families, particularly those currently experiencing disadvantage. This caring collaboration helps create a loving and nurturing school community.

Leaders have reviewed and updated the curriculum to include opportunities for pupils to learn about being advocates of social change. Consequently, pupils develop a responsibility towards others and their understanding of injustice is growing. The Year 5/6 topic, 'Champions of Change', resulted in the creation of an enterprise project to raise funds for the charity Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The pupils chose MAF as a charity of justice, helping people to make life fairer. Pupils understanding of the story of the lost sheep underpins their awareness that everyone is unique. As such, no one is left out and it is everyone's job to help people succeed as they get older. This inspires pupils to discuss important issues at home, such as the needs of the homeless and how they can be helped. They are also keen to embrace roles of responsibility during the school day. However, opportunities to enable all pupils to understand how to become active agents of change and challenge are less developed.

RE is well led. The curriculum is planned to encourage pupils to question and engage in discussion. Deeper thinking questions expand their ideas further. However, not all pupils are able to link this to the relevance in their own lives. Professional development is given a high priority, leaders and teachers receive training through both the diocesan and Trust team. This provides both consistency in the teaching of RE and a knowledgeable staff. In RE lessons, they re-visit the big frieze annually. Pupils comment that they always see something different that they did not see previously. This demonstrates an enthusiasm to apply their previous learning and to think deeper. Pupils are excited by their activities within RE. For example, the youngest pupils learn about the story of creation in the Bible. This is further developed through experiential opportunities which promote a sense of joy and appreciation of nature. Teachers' creative approaches enable pupils to develop a wide and respectful knowledge of a range of faiths and worldviews. Leaders consider the local context and recognise the importance of pupils gaining an understanding and respect for different world views.

Information

Address	Straight Lane, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9UA		
Date	25 September 2024	URN	143517
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	91
Diocese	Canterbury		
MAT/Federation	Aquila The Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust		
Headteacher	Rowan Wright		
Chair of Governors	Lynn Seal		
Inspector	Sara Williamson		