

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Thomas Cantilupe Church of England Primary School

Vision

Our vision is that we enable every child to 'shine bright their light.' Matthew 5:14-16. It combines the message of 'You are the light of the world' and 'Let your light shine' which demonstrate that we, as a school family, follow Jesus' teaching enabling all children to shine brightly through our core values of love, perseverance and unity.

St Thomas Cantilupe 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 school's life-changing vision drives every aspect of its work. St Thomas Cantilupe is a beacon of hope and light for the diverse community it serves. Pupils and adults flourish because of exceptional care.
- Inclusion of pupils and their families is exemplary. The curriculum and the teaching of it are adapted to meet the needs of individuals. This enables pupils to overcome barriers to learning. Pupils and adults are encouraged and supported to let their light shine in their own unique way. The impact of this provision is transformative.
- Religious education (RE), enriched by the school's culture days, is the cornerstone of the strong and respectful relationships. Leaders give the subject high priority, and pupils have a deep appreciation of the subject. Teaching and learning are consistently of high quality. As a result, pupils demonstrate impressive religious literacy, articulating their understanding with confidence, respect, and insight.
- The vision empowers pupils and staff to be bold and make a difference. Pupils passionately challenge all forms of injustice and instigate action with determination. Their compassionate response to being advocates of change is quite extraordinary.
- Collective worship is inspirational and uplifting. It unites the school community and is a powerful vehicle to explore the vision and values. Joyful singing and meaningful moments of reflection provide opportunities for spiritual development.

Development Points

- Deepen mutually beneficial relationships with Hereford cathedral to further enhance St Thomas Cantilupe as a Church school.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Saint Thomas Cantilupe embodies a life changing vision: shine bright your light. It drives an embedded culture of love and acceptance. Rich diversity is embraced, and all are treated well with equity, dignity and respect. This results in a happy, harmonious and calm learning environment. St Thomas Cantilupe is a beacon of hope and light within its wider community, embodying Jesus' teaching in Matthew's gospel to 'let your light shine before others.' This light is powerfully expressed through the school's deeply embedded ethos of inclusion, where every individual is welcomed, valued, and celebrated. Leaders are committed to ensuring that all are able to flourish, regardless of their background or ability. This lies at the heart of the school's decision-making and practice. The intentional inclusivity creates a community where diversity is cherished, and all pupils and adults feel a genuine sense of belonging. As a result, pupils demonstrate confidence, compassion, and respect for others, living out the school's vision with authenticity. This is transformative for pupils and their families. Leaders exemplify the aspirational Christian vision encouraging ambition and positive impact for everyone. All actions aspire to unlock each pupil's potential so that they can let their light shine.

Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision shapes an ambitious, inspirational curriculum. The school radiates high aspirations across its community. The curriculum and teaching are sensitively adapted to support pupils with additional needs. Every effort is taken to overcome barriers to learning. Particular care is taken to nurture those new to the school with English as an additional language. Leaders' relentless determination to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged changes lives for the better. The school is part of the Diocese of Hereford Multi-Academy Trust. The trust embeds a culture of collaboration and shared practice. This enriches and sustains the school's Christian character. St Thomas Cantilupe is central in the sharing of its aspirational, vision-driven practice with schools within the trust and the diocese. Staff are supported to succeed, with individuals' strengths nurtured and developed. Pupils engage with all that the school offers. This has a far-reaching impact on their academic and personal development. Enrichment experiences and extracurricular activities widen pupils' horizons and enrich their spiritual journey. Engaging in these opportunities cultivates a sense of independence, enhances communication skills and boosts self-esteem. This helps the pupils become more aware of themselves and better understand the world around them. It supports their personal spiritual growth. These include musical events, trips and residential visits. Character development is a strength. Pupils embrace a wide range of leadership roles. These empower them to live out Christian character virtues, for example, acting as ethos ambassadors, worship leaders and librarians.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship unites the school community, creating a powerful sense of togetherness. It is a highly valued and dedicated time for staff and pupils to meet and reflect. It is inclusive and invitational and reflects the school's Christian vision and values. It is a joyful moment within the daily life of the school. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on stories and make connections to their own lives. Worship inspires staff and pupils and helps them to think deeply and express their thoughts, beliefs and feelings. This nurtures their spiritual growth. Regular evaluations of the impact of collective worship mean that it continues to be relevant to everyone. Support from Hereford cathedral, recently strengthened by a formal partnership, provides exceptional musical opportunities. For example, school choir have led evensong with the choristers and have sung in the cathedral's nativity. A representative from the cathedral leads choral praise worship in school. These experiences enrich the spiritual life of the school. Enthusiastic singing in worship is inspirational and uplifting.

Vision and School Culture

St Thomas Cantilupe is a community that lives well together. It is founded on mutual respect. Loving and kind interactions are consistently modelled by staff towards pupils and between each other. Parents rightly value the school culture as the one that they want for their children. Staff are well supported both professionally and personally and work well as a team. The mental health of staff and pupils is valued. The school has demonstrated this through prioritising the provision of a counsellor and family learning mentor. Strong partnerships between



pupils, their families and school positively impact on the flourishing of pupils and adults. Leaders ensure that pupils' rights, dignity, and flourishing are at the core of decision-making and daily practice across the school. Consequently, behaviour is characterised by mutual respect and a strong sense of responsibility towards one another.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils are empowered to use their light for the good of others. They have a deep understanding of injustice and can give many examples from around the world. Each class decides upon an injustice to advocate for. Examples include reducing waste, food insecurity and climate injustice. Pupil voice led to the development of a stumpery to improve the biodiversity of the school. The gardening gang look after the area, watering the plants and keeping it free from litter. The wooden stumps provide homes for robins. The carefully planned study of inspirational people adds to their awareness of justice and equity. Pupils have a significant autonomy in decisions. They contemplate how they can make ethical choices and decisions to impact positively on the world around them. They show considerable compassion and love for those in need. There is a deep commitment to equity and justice.

Religious Education

The quality of RE teaching is consistently high with teachers building upon previous learning. They facilitate pupils developing strong knowledge and broad, in depth, understanding of Christianity and the major world religions. As a result of the balanced RE curriculum approach, pupils make very good progress in their RE. They learn about core beliefs, philosophy and the diverse ways in which faiths are lived out. Pupils undertake a wide variety of learning tasks. An effective system of assessment informs teaching and learning.

RE is prioritised by the school. Additional cultural days bring memorable authenticity to pupils' learning. Through valued partnerships with families, pupils are proud to share their own experiences of how faith is lived out. In this way RE is central to harmonious relationships in a diverse yet united community. Continuing professional development, both school and trust-wide, along with diocesan advice, leads to exceptional provision. Pupils are inspirational in the enthusiastic way they speak about their RE learning. They use specialist RE vocabulary very well and make connections. They insightfully express how what they have learned affects them. They are compelling ambassadors for the importance of RE in the world. Pupils' RE learning contributes considerably to their flourishing.

Information

Address	Coningsby Street, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR1 2DY		
Date	24 September 2025	URN	140183
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	222
Diocese	Hereford		
MAT	Diocese of Hereford Multi-Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Asha Begley		
Chair of Governors	Andrew Teale (Chair of Local Governing Board)		
Inspector	Kerry Geddis		