Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Eardisley Church of England Primary School

Vision

At Eardisley CE Primary School, our vision is to live out through Friendship and Determination, the Christian teaching to 'love one another.'

This vision, rooted in our shared values, will guide, inspire and nourish, bringing Joy to all. (John 15:12)

'My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you.'
In all that we do, our values shine through.

Eardisley 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 Christian vision is lived out daily by a united and loving staff team who model the values to pupils. A holistic approach to learning prioritises spiritual flourishing. Leaders and staff keep this central so that it drives the strategic direction of the school.
- Relationships in the school are strong. Leaders and staff know pupils and families well and seek the best for each pupil. They are valued as unique and treasured members of the school community. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are a particular focus. The reflective practice of the school supports bespoke learning, well-suited to meet individual needs.
- A rich and varied religious education (RE) curriculum provides opportunities for learning about a range of religions and worldviews. Pupils are beginning to understand how faith and belief impact daily life.
- Collective worship is a key component in the deep sense of belonging and community, which makes Eardisley school a special place to be. This expression of the Christian vision and values strengthens the ethos of the school. As a result, worship is valued as a safe space to share common goals and reflect on deeper issues.

Development Points

- Strengthen the planning, monitoring and evaluation of spiritual development opportunities throughout the curriculum. This is to enrich experiences for pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.
- Enable wider involvement and coordination in the planning, leading and evaluating of collective worship. This is to enhance practice and deepen opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth.

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Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Eardisley is a school with a strong sense of identity, which is shaped by the Christian vision. 'Love for one another' is demonstrated by leaders, modelled by staff and experienced daily by the school community. Well-chosen values signpost the journey and strengthen the character of the school. Eardisley is a welcoming, inclusive school, where friendship, determination and joy are lived out and not merely talked about. The vision drives the strategic direction of leaders who are very clear in their focus and priorities. As a result, the vision-driven curriculum is relevant to learners' needs and tailored to the school's context. Staff are well-supported and value being part of a dynamic and committed team. Leaders, including governors, prioritise wellbeing and there are comprehensive structures in place which provide both pastoral care and professional development.

Vision and Curriculum

The vision drives developments in the school curriculum, which ensure that it is creative, challenging and outward-looking. As a smaller, rural school, care is taken to provide pupils with a view of the world beyond Eardisley. Pupils learn from a global, multi-cultural perspective and enjoy opportunities to interact with communities and voices different from their own. They speak articulately about world issues and demonstrate a growing understanding and empathy. This is fostered through well-chosen texts and regular discussion of big questions. Moments of reflection sometimes happen spontaneously in wider learning, with pupils beginning to make thoughtful observations in spirituality journals. They understand the terms 'self, others, beauty and the beyond' when talking about spirituality. This helps pupils recognise moments of awe and wonder that enrich learning. There are fewer consistent, planned opportunities for spiritual development across the whole curriculum.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship at Eardisley is at the very heart of the school. It is valued by both adults and pupils as a safe and calm place for reflection. Pupils can explain how Bible texts, songs and object lessons in worship help them to develop character. They appreciate time to understand and apply the values and vision in their own lives. There is a clear, termly focus for collective worship which aligns with each value. The school ethos is strengthened by meaningful partnerships with the local church and diocese. Local clergy make weekly visits to school collective worship and help pupils understand the church calendar, prayer and liturgy. Regular, monthly visits to the parish church for worship and RE lessons enhance the close relationship between church and school. Diocesan online worship sessions are a highlight of class collective worship. This provides a model for worship and a catalyst for follow-up activities, which support flourishing. A school worship group, recently introduced following pupil feedback, gives opportunities for input under adult guidance. There are fewer opportunities for pupils and adults to plan, lead and evaluate collective worship to ensure continuous development. Pupils with additional needs are supported to participate and worship is adapted to aid their understanding. Subsequently, they participate fully and often make profound contributions during shared discussion. Collective worship on the day of inspection focused on how God helps us in difficult times. The school discussed how showing kindness can help others know comfort in their worries. One pupil explained how trusted adults in school support him in times of anxiety, 'sharing the load.'

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Eardisley school is at the hub of village life. They take their responsibility for the local area seriously and make contributions to a range of village-wide initiatives. Staff at Eardisley are growing young leaders with a strong sense of purpose and a belief that they can make a difference in the world. Older pupils take part in half-termly people to parliament debates on a range of current issues. This promotes their confidence to speak out about injustice and inequality. Even the youngest pupils understand that they have a voice and can effect change. Older pupils at Eardisley form special relationships with the youngest through the school buddy system. As a result, they settle quickly and are fully integrated into the wider school community from the start. Pupils play well together in the expansive grounds. They care passionately about the environment. This is fostered through Forest School and inspiring outdoor learning. Values ambassadors play an important role in recognising and celebrating the vision and values in action.

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Religious Education

The RE curriculum provides pupils with challenging and well-sequenced lessons which build their knowledge of a range of religions and worldviews. Staff training with the diocese and close partnership with other Church schools enhance teaching and learning. Pupil engagement in RE is high and lessons contribute significantly to their personal development. They demonstrate respect for others and speak with maturity and insight about diversity and difference. RE is well-resourced and strengthened by visits and first-hand experiences. Pupils can use increasingly complex vocabulary by Key Stage 2. Their knowledge of theological concepts is less developed. RE is explored through a variety of genres, such as art, music and philosophy. This has enriched the ways in which pupils can express and develop their own opinions and beliefs. Enrichment days enable pupils to learn in mixed-aged groups. These strengthen both their teamwork and their understanding of Christianity as a global faith. A recent enrichment day helped children to understand how Harvest is celebrated around the world.

Vision and School Culture

The aptly chosen vision to 'love one another' pervades wider school life. Close teamwork and the dedication of a united staff, results in a culture of aspiration and compassion. Staff have high expectations for pupils in their care and for each other as colleagues. Governors provide wide-ranging support to the school. As a result, school development is positively impacted by their deep knowledge and input. The vision and values of the school drive the shared goal to see every adult and pupil flourishing. Thoughtful support in times of difficulty, and imaginative initiatives, ensure that pupils and families' needs are well met. Parents know that their children are loved and nurtured. They appreciate the open-door policy and the clear and insightful communication between school and home. Individual needs are anticipated and leaders and staff work wholeheartedly to ensure barriers to learning are addressed. Pupils show resilience not just regarding their own learning but in the empathy and patience they show to others. This is especially true for those who have SEND or are considered more vulnerable, who thrive in this close and nurturing environment. They are supported to learn alongside their peers. Pupils speak up on behalf of others. This is because they understand that the special culture of their school means that no one is an outsider.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Eardisley, Hereford, HR3 6NS		
Date	19 October 2026	URN	116804
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	88
Diocese	Hereford		
Headteacher	Laura Williams		
Chair of Governors	Carol Morris		
Inspector	Ruth Williams		

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