



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Barnwood Church of England Primary School

Address Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL4 3JP

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Overall grade **Good**

The impact of collective worship **Good**

The effectiveness of religious education (RE) **Excellent**

School's vision

For Barnwood to be a school where we love our neighbour and work together to be the best that we can be for the good of all. Our Christian vision and its linked values are at the heart of our school and rooted in the teachings of Jesus.

Love your neighbour as yourself (Matthew 22:39)

Key findings

- The leadership at Barnwood is embodied by the inspirational headteacher. She immerses every member of the school with love drawn from the teachings of Matthew, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Staff and governors share the well-considered and powerful Christian vision which drives the strategic direction of the school.
- Opportunities for spiritual development are woven through the curriculum, enabling staff and pupils to grow and flourish spiritually. A shared language to discuss these experiences is yet to be established.
- Pupils are inspired to be courageous advocates and take action in the service of others. New opportunities for pupils to challenge injustice and inequality have become limited, due to the recent pandemic.
- Religious education (RE) is an excellent feature of the school. Pupils have a depth of theological knowledge and understanding of RE topics studied, resulting in an impressive degree of religious literacy.
- Collective worship is embedded at the heart of the school creating a strong sense of community. Pupils reflect deeply on their growing understanding of Christianity but are less confident to explain the diversity of traditions within it.

Areas for development

- Ensure that pupils and adults develop a common language of spirituality, so they can respond and share their experiences to further enhance the spiritual flourishing of all.
- Continue to develop the leadership skills of pupils to be courageous advocates, so they can take action and initiate changes in their community and beyond.
- Expand pupils understanding of the diversity of the worldwide Christian church to broaden their collective worship experience.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Barnwood is a welcoming and highly inclusive school. The inspirational headteacher and the dedicated staff and governors wholeheartedly promote the deeply Christian vision. Underpinned by the teachings of Matthew, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' the vision is lived out well by the whole school community. Pupils understand the source of the vision and associated values and say, 'We love our neighbour and use our values to show it.' As a result, they are kind, caring and respectful. To ensure the vision is driving their actions, governors actively work with the headteacher and staff to monitor its impact. Governors are committed and effective, which is evidenced by their clear strategic plan for the ongoing growth of Barnwood as a Church school.

The compelling partnerships with the church, Diocese and community are a strength of the school, demonstrate how the Christian vision underpins relationships at all levels. Staff, pupils and parents feel the school offers them a deep sense of family and togetherness, where everyone cares and supports each other. Parents comment on the love and kindness shown to all and recognise how the vision drives everything. Strong learning partnerships with Gloucester Diocese and the local authority (LA), give staff access to a range of quality training and monitoring. Consequently, staff are given the knowledge and skills to support pupils in their learning and development, enabling staff to flourish because they feel valued and appreciated. The vision is extended to trainee teachers who feel supported and welcomed by all. One student commented, 'I have loved being part of such an inclusive school.' The Diocese and the LA value the contribution the school makes in supporting other schools by generously sharing its expertise in curriculum development and RE.

The Christian vision inspires the bespoke curriculum, which is inclusive and adaptive, supporting all pupils 'to be the best they can be,' and enabling vulnerable pupils and those with additional needs to thrive. The school's exemplary inclusion practice supports effective teaching and learning, aspiring to allow all pupils to 'flourish in learning'. Rich opportunities for spiritual development are woven through the curriculum offering time for reflection, stillness and prayer by drawing on the experiences of 'the wows, nows and ows of life'. The prayer box, collective worship and forest school sessions provide excellent opportunities for pupils to explore their relationship with themselves, others and the wider world and beyond. Although planned and spontaneous spiritual moments are enjoyed by all, pupils and adults lack confidence to articulate their experiences through a shared language of spirituality.

Collective worship is invitational and inclusive and embedded in the heart of the school. Pupils and staff flourish because of the opportunities to sing, pray and reflect, thus providing meaningful opportunities for them to develop spiritually. All pupils are involved in planning and delivering worship, with older pupils confidently leading worship to the whole school, their class and to parents. Worship led by the parish vicar, staff and local worship leaders brings variety and enrichment to the life of the school, impacting positively on pupils' knowledge of Christianity. However, pupils lack clarity about the diversity of traditions within the worldwide Christian church. Connections are also made during worship between the teachings of Jesus and current day issues around the world. As a result, pupils are inspired to challenge injustice and inequality igniting their passion to be advocates for change. Examples of this are the Harvest food collection for the Gloucester foodbank and the 'Operation Christmas Child' shoebox appeal, where boxes were filled with items for children in need around the world. Due to the impact of the recent pandemic, opportunities for pupils to be courageous advocates and initiate these activities for themselves has been reduced.

The Christian commitment to value everyone underpins the way pupils and adults behave towards each other. Pupils remark, 'Everyone is unique and loved no matter what.' Lived out through their actions, pupils recently welcomed refugees into the school, saying how lucky they are to have them. Rooted in the Christian vision, the headteacher, leaders and governors ensure everyone is given the care and opportunity to flourish and succeed. An example of how the governors are committed to supporting good mental health is the decision to provide extra funding for the development of 'the Snug'. This is a nurture room that gives support to all vulnerable pupils. It clearly links to the vision, allowing all pupils to flourish regardless of their circumstances or abilities. The school invests in many resources to support wellbeing, 'Five ways to wellbeing' is one which helps pupils to be active and connect with each other.

All staff have received mental health training, resulting in the development of an effective team of mental health champions. This emotional and professional support has enabled all adults to flourish.

Citizenship, Personal, Social and Health Education (CPSHE) is a strength of the school and as a result character development is excellent. Relationships are underpinned by a deep understanding of dignity and respect where adults and pupils thrive. The school has three golden rules based around the values of love, respect and kindness, thus ensuring a positive learning environment. School councillors articulate how pupils care for each other with kindness and respect. When discussing the values one parent stated, 'The school teaches children to be kind and respect each other.'

RE is a particularly strong feature of the school. Diocesan training supports the RE leader to provide high quality staff development through regular subject training sessions. The 'RE Best Practice Network' is also led by the leader across a range of Gloucestershire schools. The engaging RE curriculum combines the local syllabus with effective use of the 'Understanding Christianity' resource. As a result, pupils are knowledgeable about a wide range of faiths and worldviews. Governors regularly monitor the impact of the RE curriculum to ensure pupils make outstanding progress.

The understanding by all stakeholders that the vision of 'Love your neighbour as yourself' is lived out daily, makes this a truly inclusive school that lovingly supports the flourishing of all pupils and adults.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

RE is exceptionally well planned and led. Consistently high levels of staff expertise, knowledge and skills are evident, leading to inspirational teaching throughout the subject. As a result, pupils develop an excellent depth of biblical knowledge and wider religious literacy. Whilst gaining the ability to articulate their theological understanding in the most eloquent way. The inspiring curriculum promotes enjoyment and supports pupils to make impressive progress, enabling them to excel in their RE learning.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	20 May 2022	URN	115714
Date of previous inspection	24 April 2015		
School status	Voluntary Aided	NOR	192
Name of MAT/Federation	N/A		
Diocese / Methodist District	Diocese of Gloucester		
Headteacher	Julia Matson		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is in line with national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)			
Inspector's name	Beverley Roberts	No.	C1914