

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Porlock St Dubricious CofE VA Primary School

Address Porlock, Minehead, Somerset, United Kingdom, TA24 8QJ

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)

Good

School's vision

To provide children and adults alike with opportunities to fulfil their potential in a safe and loving environment with Christian values at its core; to 'be the best we can be in the knowledge and love of God'. "Put into practice what you have received and learnt from me, both from my words and my actions. And God who gives us peace will be with you." Philippians 4 v 9

Key findings

- The dedicated leadership of the executive headteacher, head of school and of all staff ensures that this Church school's vision creates a transformative community where the academic and spiritual needs of all are met.
- The vision drives decision making, policies and practice at all levels. This learning community enables all to flourish.
- The strong partnership with the local church, is pivotal in reinforcing the school's Christian vision and values with the local community. This develops highly valued positive relationships.
- Collective worship is invitational and a clear expression of the school's Christian vision. This offers pupils a secure space for thinking and reflection, to explore some of the big questions in life. However, opportunities for children to plan, lead and evaluate worship are limited.
- Pupils develop high levels of subject knowledge in religious education (RE) however extended engagement opportunities for a range of religions other than Christianity are limited.

Areas for development

- Further develop pupils' encounters with visitors of a range of religions and worldviews in order to deepen their knowledge and further enhance their cultural and spiritual development.
- Increase opportunities for pupils of all ages to independently plan, lead and evaluate acts of collective worship and so strengthen their spiritual development.
- Develop opportunities to share good practice in RE with a wider range of schools, to champion innovation and further raise standards.

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

St Dubricius is an inclusive and loving Christian community. The school's recent federation with four other local schools enables significant collaborative benefits at all levels. With close links to the church, St Dubricius' vision ensures that the school is at the heart of the community. Combined projects and wide ranging provision for local families, make it an integral part of the local area. The executive headteacher's mission to 'provide all God's children with the best, as they develop and flourish' embodies the school's biblically linked vision. This vision, 'be the best we can be in the knowledge and love of God' and eight carefully selected Christian values, are shared and celebrated by the whole community. Leaders champion these values, explaining how love, courage and service have been integral throughout recent local and worldwide challenges. Consequently, all children and adults alike work together effectively to create a harmonious atmosphere. School leaders and governors have accurately evaluated the school's strengths and clearly identified areas to improve. As a result, all learners' needs are fully met. They have a well-established understanding of how the school's Christian vision underpins all aspects of daily life. Governors are actively involved with the promotion and development of the school's Christian vision. During times of challenge and change, they have supported the school with care and diligence. Parents champion the school's inclusive nature as 'a welcoming oasis, with endless compassion for all'. Church links are a particular strength with joint projects and the regular gathering for Christian festivals and other services.

The school's Christian vision and values drive a wide range of carefully planned opportunities during lessons and extra-curricular activities. These are designed to develop the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. These were understandably interrupted during the pandemic, however the school remained in touch with their families to provide significant support for all. Children are clear about the importance of the school's Christian vision and values in their lives. As a result, their relationships are harmonious. They explained that 'we must treat each other like we want to be treated, like the Good Samaritan'. Consequently, strong bonds are formed between children and across the whole school community. The school has developed a shared understanding of spirituality and the ways in which development can be encouraged. This is achieved through explicit curriculum planning as well as reflective opportunities in and around the school, where children can think and pray. The children's understanding of Christianity as a multicultural faith is enhanced through their link school in Zambia. Their ability to articulate their understanding about the challenges faced by others both locally and around the world is impressive. As a result, children are inspired to challenge injustice and inequality. This serves to ignite their passion to be advocates for change. The importance the school places on loving all is expressed through the commendable support of charities. Examples of this are the regular and impressive food collections for the local foodbank, as well as providing local families with food parcels. This significant support during the most challenging of times, fully embodies the school's vision and values.

The school vision of 'providing a safe and loving environment' can be seen in the children's positive attitudes towards school. This is reflected in the school's involvement in, and commitment to, fostering links with the local community, both with the local church and beyond. The school's vision drives its commitment to the local community by sharing facilities with various organisations. This provides enhanced provision, enabling further opportunities for all to flourish. The children know that it is important to show respect to all people, regardless of their background. As a result, the school's inclusive nature ensures that all are welcomed, celebrated and enabled to flourish. There is an emphasis on caring for the whole child, especially those with additional needs. The school has built strong lines of communication with all families, especially those who require additional support. This in turn creates appreciative and well-rounded pupils, whose achievements are recognised and celebrated, as they flourish.

Collective worship embodies the school's vision and ensures the key Christian messages permeate all aspects of school life. Children are also able to talk about the Christian values that underpin it. Christian traditions are clearly visible throughout the setting, with pupils able to articulate the Christian belief in the Trinity. High levels of engagement are achieved during worship. Drama, storytelling and skilful questioning provide opportunities for children to consider big questions and reflect on their own roles in society.

Consequently, this encourages high level thinking around the themes of the school's Christian values. However, the school does not provide consistent opportunities for children to plan, lead and evaluate worship. As a result, opportunities for spiritual development are missed. Children talk positively about biblically-referenced worship themes and how they can apply key messages to their own lives. Strong links with the local church and wider community further strengthen the impact of worship. Parents speak favourably about celebration services, which are effective in promoting effective spiritual development. Prayer is also an important part of the school day beyond collective worship. Children are invited to be actively engaged in thanking God for what they have and saying sorry for mistakes they have made. This is coupled effectively with opportunities to pray for improvements in their own and others' lives. The end result reflects the leaders' Christian vision for the school, as a well built and supportive community.

RE has a high status within the school and makes significant contribution to the school's Christian vision. Leaders have effectively led the new curriculum changes, utilising the locally agreed syllabus, alongside the 'Understanding Christianity' resource. Lessons are effectively planned to enrich the knowledge and understanding of all, ensuring that there is an appropriate focus on Christianity. Curriculum engagement for children in each year group, ensures they acquire a deepening understanding of what people of different world religions and worldviews believe and how they choose to live. Support for children with highly complex needs encompasses the school's vision. Leaders ensure that barriers to learning are minimized, utilising personalised provision, so all can achieve. As a result, children enjoy RE lessons and recognise its importance in their lives. However, children do not have the opportunity to visit places of worship or learn from representatives of a range of religions. Leaders monitor the impact of the RE curriculum to ensure it is ambitious and effective.

St Dubricius is greatly appreciated by the whole school community and local area, where all thrive and flourish.



The effectiveness of RE is

Good

RE is well planned and led. The curriculum promotes enjoyment and opportunities for children to express their theological understanding. Teaching is consistently good, and pupils use originality and creativity in applying their skills, to provide responses to the 'Big Questions' about meaning and purpose. As a result, children display impressive depth in religious literacy and biblical knowledge. Children make good progress with their RE learning.

Contextual information about the school

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| Date of inspection | 13 July 2022 | URN | 123837 |
| Date of previous inspection | 26 March 2015 | | |
| School status | VA | NOR | 071 |
| Name of Multi Academy Trust or Federation | FEDERATION - Moorland Fed - Cutcombe / Dunster / Exford / St Dubricius / Timberscombe | | |
| Diocese or Methodist Circuit | Bath & Wells | | |
| Headteacher | Naomi Philp | | |
| Proportion of pupils deemed to be disadvantaged | In Line with National Average | | |
| Proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities | Above National Average | | |
| Additional significant information (if needed) | St Dubricius CofE First School federated with four other schools in 2017, three of which are Church of England. The newly appointed executive headteacher has been in post from January 2022. | | |
| Inspector's name | David Scorer | No. | 0841 |

