

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Truro

Address Higher Trehaverne, Truro, United Kingdom, TR1 3RJ

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

Excellent

The impact of collective worship

Good

School's vision

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Be an example to all believers, in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity.' 1 Timothy 4:12. We reflect on Paul encouraging Timothy to be a role model to others.

Key findings

- The strong, Bible-based Christian vision is known by and inspires the whole school community. It permeates all their activities and shapes their learning.
- The school provides excellent, loving and well-focussed support for the individual needs of all its pupils. This empowers them to 'make a difference' and they flourish as independent learners.
- There is a clear, shared understanding of spirituality which is demonstrated through the curriculum and extra curricula activities. However, this is less well developed in collective worship.
- Excellent leadership develops staff and pupils to be the best they can be, often transforming lives.
- Leaders share their expertise generously amongst partnership schools and across the County. Religious education (RE) is exciting, vibrant and well-led. Pupils extend their understanding and explore their own opinions and beliefs about Christianity and a range of world faiths.

Areas for development

- To further enhance the spiritual development of pupils during collective worship so that they can experience more 'awe and wonder' about that which is above and beyond themselves.
- To further enrich pupils' knowledge and understanding of global and cultural issues and their impact on the world.

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

At St Mary's, the outstanding leadership team has embedded a clear, Bible-based Christian vision which inspires both staff and pupils to make a positive difference to their own lives, their community and the world beyond school. The vision is known and understood by the whole school community. It permeates the whole life of the school, inspiring pupils to become resilient and independent learners who act to make a difference to the world around them. Staff explain how the Christian vision is based on the Bible passage in 1 Timothy which describes Paul as a mentor to the younger Timothy, guiding him in his ministry. In the same way, staff at every level see themselves as mentors to those in their care, guiding and supporting them so that they flourish. In this way, they provide inspiring and individualised support for all pupils including their emotional and learning needs. This means that pupils flourish in confidence and in their learning. Vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are given outstanding support, which in many cases has transformed their lives. This includes a special, individualised curriculum and space for a sensory learner, excellent support for deaf pupils and an exciting forest school curriculum for all.

The Christian vision inspires the excellent personal and professional support offered by the school, allowing all to thrive and grow. Staff are given loving and practical help by the leadership team at times of personal trauma or illness, and thus staff remain loyal to the school, flourishing through that care. The school has provided 'Trauma Informed School' training for some staff who then work with individual pupils with mental health, trauma or bereavement challenges, enabling them to function and learn at their best. Staff receive regular training from the Diocese to support RE and the distinctive Christian ethos, and the headteacher works with the Diocese to mentor other Church school leaders, inspiring them to grow as Church schools. In this way, the school leadership team is living out the vision to 'make a difference' to schools and pupils in the area. Governors are fully invested in the school and its Christian vision. They visit regularly to monitor and evaluate the school as a Church school, incorporating their findings into the school improvement planning. This means that the distinctive Christian ethos at the school has developed and flourished.

The innovative and exciting 'Sunrise' curriculum has been devised by school leaders around the learning needs and interests of the pupils. It is vision-led and allows pupils at the school to progress and flourish in their learning. Pupils are consistently educated that they can 'make a difference'. Through their student council, eco-group, RE leaders and young leaders' groups they set up social action projects arising from their learning about charities and areas of need in the world. A recent example is the highly successful charity fair where young leaders independently researched charities of their choice. They then set up and ran a charity fair with 18 different stalls representing their choices, and devised fund-raising activities for each. Staff assisted with timings and supervision but otherwise the project was pupil-led. In this way, pupils learn the confidence to be courageous advocates for change, and are empowered to make a difference in the world beyond the school gates. Other, individual pupils have also devised and run social action events including a family litter pick and a charity presentation and fund-raising event by a child with SEND. Difference and diversity is celebrated in this school. Vulnerable pupils, and those with SEND have made presentations to the whole school informing them about their disabilities, and have been supported and applauded by pupils for doing so. In these ways, all pupils are enabled to flourish at this school. Inspired by the Christian vision they grow in confidence and resilience as well as making a big difference to those less fortunate than themselves.

Collective worship is strongly linked to the school's Christian vision. Pupils know and celebrate this through their joyful singing of the school song based on the passage in 1 Timothy 12 v 4. Pupils confidently plan and lead worship, and are fully involved in evaluating it, giving their ideas for improvements. A range of local churches have strong links with the school. They lead worship, host visits to the churches and provide an 'Open the Book' team who dramatise Bible stories. These links inspire pupils to think deeply, making a strong contribution to pupils' spiritual growth. There is an inspiring, shared understanding of the nature of spirituality and how it can be developed through the curriculum and extra-curricular activities at the school. This is particularly strong in forest school activities where pupils can connect with nature, think through their problems or simply rest and relax in the outdoors. Indoor and outdoor reflection and prayer areas are valued and well used by pupils who say that they enable them to 'take God wherever they go'. This means that pupils flourish very well spiritually. However, this could be further enhanced during formal collective worship where sometimes opportunities are missed to engage pupils spiritually in relation to awe and wonder about the world around and beyond their lives.

RE is excellent. It is varied, exciting and very well led by a staff team who each contribute their different strengths to create a high-quality experience for pupils. They use excellent resources and a variety of teaching styles to introduce pupils to Christianity and a wide range of faiths and worldviews. Pupils enjoy and value the opportunities to discuss their ideas and opinions, and are proud of their high-quality written work. Teachers effectively assess pupils' progress and use this to plan future learning. Pupils have a range of opportunities to learn about different cultures and global issues in RE and other curriculum areas. However, these areas of learning have yet to be fully developed and enhanced following the recent Covid restrictions

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	17 October 2022	URN	111990
Date of previous inspection	16 June 2015		
School status	VC	NOR	210
Name of Multi Academy Trust or Federation	N/A		
Diocese or Methodist Circuit	Truro		
Headteacher	Nicola Bray		
Proportion of pupils deemed to be disadvantaged	Above National Average		
Proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	In Line with National Average		
Additional significant information (if needed)			
Inspector's name	Judith Larrington	No.	0948