

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Spaxton Church of England VC Primary School</b>	
Address	Spaxton, Bridgwater, TA5 1BS
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

School's vision
<p>'Together we flourish and achieve'</p> <p>We believe those who belong to our school; protect, trust, have hope, persevere, show courage and respect. Our vision and values are inspired by 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a on the theme of love which include the words 'Love is patient, love is kind.....It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never ends.'</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strong leadership of the Quantock Education Trust multi-academy trust (MAT) supported by the church have created a partnership which lives out its Christian vision enabling all to flourish.</li> <li>The Christian vision promotes a culture of compassionate care and encouragement built on St Paul's teachings of Christian love. This enables all to flourish including the disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils.</li> <li>The church community's contributions to collective worship have a powerful impact in strengthening the vision. However, pupils' roles in planning and leading worship are underdeveloped.</li> <li>Whilst pupils have a good understanding of inclusion and equality, the curriculum does not sufficiently raise issues of injustice and inequality. Consequently, pupils do not feel motivated by the vision to make a tangible difference by engaging in social action projects.</li> <li>Extensive work has recently been undertaken in developing and adapting additional resources for the new religious education (RE) curriculum. However, these schemes of work have not been fully implemented. Consequently, teachers have not had time to track and address pupils' learning in a systematic way.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively involve pupils in the leadership of worship on a regular basis in order to increase their spiritual development.</li> <li>Embed the new schemes of work and systems for teaching RE so that learning and progress will be raised.</li> <li>Raise the profile of global issues of inequality and injustice in the curriculum so that pupils feel motivated to act as agents of change and social action projects become embedded in the life of the school.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

Spaxton has a strong Christian vision which is lived out within the Quantock Education Trust MAT schools, the diocese and the local church community. It is firmly rooted in St Paul's description of Christian love. Leaders, including governors and staff, talk with passion and animation about the way the vision guides all decision making and interactions. Collective worship and RE are given a high priority within the life of the school. The formation of the MAT three years ago and the appointment of the new headteacher, has had a transformational impact on the life of the school. Leaders and staff have the highest aspiration for their pupils, based on their vision. The close partnership of the MAT with the diocese is a strength. Training for school leaders and staff enables pupils to make good progress in their learning. Staff feel highly valued at a personal and professional level. The impact of the school's vision is rigorously monitored and evaluated by the school's ethos committee. Their self-evaluation strategies are very effective and consequently areas for development have been accurately identified. The partnership between the school and its local community is mutually beneficial. The school supports the local toddlers group, the rainbow café and tree planting in the village. Close relationships with parents ensure that they are fully involved on a day to day basis in their children's behaviour and progress. Parents value the school's open culture and provide exceptional support, such as on one of the recent weekend 'maintenance days'.

The school's curriculum is a holistic expression of its vision enabling all to flourish and achieve. Teaching is inspiring, engaging and fully focussed on meeting the needs of all pupils. Consequently, learning at Spaxton is enjoyable and 'fun'. Pupils are closely involved in their progress in learning and understand flourishing as 'growing in our work'. Working together with their partner primary school in the MAT, is widening opportunities for learning. For example, visits, including one to Corfe Castle have been enjoyed with a wider range of pupils. During the pandemic, pupils were supported very effectively by school leaders and staff. The headteacher and her staff make bold decisions with the curriculum. As a result of their actions, the potential of disadvantaged pupils, including those with additional needs is transformed. Opportunities within the curriculum exist for pupils to reflect on their learning. Staff are developing a shared understanding of spiritual development. However, there is not a structured plan in place to develop spiritual and ethical awareness across the curriculum. 'Big Questions' about life are used well. Nevertheless there is not sufficient focus on specific questions which would develop pupils' understanding of disadvantage and deprivation. Consequently, pupils do not feel motivated to engage in social action projects which would challenge injustice and inequality.

The school's Christian vision and values such as perseverance are aspirational and motivating. The school's curriculum encourages and challenges pupils to be the best they can be, the person God created them to be. During the pandemic, pupils worked hard to support each other and the local community encouraging all to flourish. Past and current activities are strengthening the school's vision and its place within the community. Difference and diversity are welcomed and celebrated in an inclusive accepting community. The school's value of respect is strongly promoted and has a good impact. Pupils have a strong sense of fairness and equality and care for and protect one another in line with the vision. Consequently all ages play very well together and relationships are exceptionally supportive. Healthy relationships are promoted well by the school's relationships and sex education which reflects the school's vision. Leaders' support for staff well-being creates an open culture where all are supported in practical and compassionate care. As a result, staff morale is high.

Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and central to daily life at Spaxton. It reflects the school's vision by motivating and inspiring pupils to flourish and achieve. Worship themes root the school's values in biblical stories as well as the life and teachings of Jesus. Christian festivals are celebrated in church together with families and the church community. These events deepen understanding of the church year and affirm the school's vision. Worship in church each month known as First Friday Family services are celebrated as a close church school community. The vicar and clergy, including the 'Open the Book' team, frequently lead worship and have a strong presence in school. Anglican practice is embedded by formal greetings and responses. However, an understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is underdeveloped as no reference is included during worship. Pupils regularly lead worship in church and aspects of worship such responses and prayers. They provide feedback on the impact of worship for the ethos committee. Outcomes have recognised the need to increase pupils' roles in leading worship. Class based reflective spaces are well used. Times of quiet and prayer in worship contrast very well with joyous active singing. In this way, worship effectively promotes spiritual development.

Religious education is recognised as an engaging and inspiring core subject. Pupils understand that it reflects the school's Christian vision. The curriculum is planned well using an effective balance in line with Church school education requirements. Pupils enjoy RE because teaching is challenging and motivating. They recognise its relevance to their lives by the need to show respect for people from a range of faiths. The recent visit of the archdeacon to the school has supported pupils' good understanding of Christianity as a living faith. Pupils are encouraged to reflect and think deeply about their beliefs and those of others. Consequently RE makes a substantial contribution to pupils' spiritual development. The headteacher teaches and leads the subject with passion sharing her enthusiasm with staff. In this way, she recognised the need for schemes of work which would better suit the school's context. Spaxton staff now work collaboratively with staff from the other Church primary school in the MAT to mutual benefit. Support from their headteacher is pivotal in the development of the exciting new schemes of work selected by the MAT. New systems for teachers to understand and implement pupils' next steps in learning have been developed. However, the impact of these systems cannot yet be identified as implementation has not taken place.

Information			
School	Spaxton Church of England VC Primary School	Inspection date	19 October 2022
URN	147324	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Bath & Wells	Pupils on roll	73
MAT/Federation	Quantock Education Trust		
Headteacher	Rachel Rood		
	Chrysta Garnett		
Inspector	Daphne Spitzer	No.	37