

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bibury Church of England Primary School	
Address	Church Road, Bibury, GL7 5NR
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
A caring Christian community where every child develops a love of life and of learning, to engage courageously with the wider world. (Psalm 8)
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded Christian vision is central to all aspects of school life, enabling pupils and adults to flourish in a warmly inclusive environment. • Curriculum provision and support for vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has a transformational impact. However, further work is needed to develop the school's shared understanding of spirituality across the curriculum. • Relationships across the school community are overwhelmingly strong. This is clearly attributed to the positive impact of the Christian vision and its associated values. • Collective worship is a special part of each day for pupils and adults. Worship is a clear expression of the Christian vision. • Pupils value and enjoy religious education (RE) lessons. They explain with passion the positive impact it has on their lives. However, work to enhance assessment systems is at an early stage of development.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharpen the school's shared understanding of spirituality across the curriculum. This is to support pupils' spiritual development through providing them with meaningful moments for reflection. • Enhance the range of opportunities provided for all pupils to engage in social action. This is enable them to be courageous advocates for change in their local, national and global communities. • Embed the recently developed assessment system in RE. This will further enable teachers to more effectively know what, and how well, pupils learn so all flourish in RE.



Inspection findings

Bibury Church of England Primary is an inclusive, nurturing school. Christian values of courage, respect, curiosity and perseverance are successfully lived out in every aspect of daily life. The whole school community is united in ensuring 'every child achieves a love of life and of learning'. Staff are relentless in supporting pupils of all abilities to progress well and reach their potential.

Leaders and governors have created a Christian vision and set of associated values that permeate Bibury. This inclusive school, where everyone is welcomed and nurtured, has developed a vision based on Psalm 8. Whilst maintaining the school's original foundation, leaders have carefully developed their vision, firmly rooted in biblical theology. Policies and procedures are shaped by this vision. As a result, the school has a golden thread that unites pupils and adults together as a family. Parents, pupils and staff recognise this as a strength of their school. Leaders and governors ensure teaching and learning is effective through secure monitoring systems. This includes processes to evaluate the effectiveness of the school as a church school. The Christian vision is successfully lived out by all relationships between stakeholders. Since the last inspection, the school has joined a multi academy trust (MAT). Leaders from the MAT wholeheartedly embrace the vision and this guides and shapes their support and challenge in the school. They are clear that Bibury is, and will continue to be, 'the soul of the community'.

Bibury has a rich and ambitious curriculum shaped around its shared vision, which develops wisdom, knowledge and skills effectively. Leaders and governors have high expectations and aspirations for the whole school community. This can be seen in school development planning. The school clearly lives out its Christian vision through its support for pupils deemed to be vulnerable and those with SEND. This support is a strength of the school. The most vulnerable pupils make good progress as a result of the tailored and bespoke curriculum offered. Pupils state, 'teachers really understand our needs'. Leaders and staff are rightly proud of the success stories of those pupils who have joined them from other schools. These pupils are given a genuine fresh start which upholds the Christian vision. As one parent commented, 'pupils are made to feel unique'. Intentional and spontaneous opportunities for spiritual development throughout the curriculum are at an early stage of implementation. Leaders and staff recognise that opportunities for reflection and quiet prayer are an area for development. Work is in progress on developing a shared understanding of spirituality so adults and pupils can grow and flourish. Diocesan training on an 'ows, wows, and nows' strategy is helping to shape the school's approach to spiritual growth. Pupils benefit from this strategy. However, they are also clear that they would value further opportunities to explore and articulate spiritual issues.

Pupils engage in some social action and charity projects and have a developing understanding of their role as advocates of change. For example, pupils filled and delivered pencil cases to a Romanian link school as part of a project with the Romanian Scripture Union. Driven by the Christian vision, pupils have a real desire to enhance this aspect of the school's work. They have ambitious plans. Most recently, pupils lobbied the local vicar for support and guidance with their charitable endeavours. Pupils clearly articulate how the work is guided by the vision and its associated values. They are proud that this shows they are part of a caring Christian community.

Relationships between all members of the community are overwhelmingly strong. Pupils behave well. They report 'we are all friends here'. Counselling and emotion coaching is provided for pupils, supporting their ability to self-regulate and develop their ability to disagree peacefully. Pupils talk clearly about ways in which the curriculum develops their



understanding of difference, diversity and respect. The Christian vision unites the staff team who express that, 'it's in everything we do'. Staff feel valued and supported by each other and by leaders. They are included in decision making. Staff appreciate the time and resources the headteacher dedicates to their wellbeing and continuous professional development.

Collective worship is held daily in church and is central to the Christian vision. It is a focal point in the day and is a highly valued part of school life. Pupils also attend some Sunday services during the year such as Mothering Sunday, Remembrance and Education Sunday. Worship is invitational, inclusive and inspirational. Pupils appreciate the time for reflection, time for calm and considering how to apply the school's values to their own lives. Staff find strength in the 'togetherness' that worship brings. One member stated, 'worship is a moment of calm in an otherwise busy day'. Links with local church groups are very well established. This allows pupils to experience a range of worship styles. Visits from a range of local clergy are appreciated and very much enjoyed by pupils and staff. They report the weekly I-sing Pop worship as a particular highlight. A variety of Anglican traditions are well established ensuring children understand the different elements of Christian worship. This includes the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God as three candles are lit. Pupils' understanding is further enhanced by direct teaching both from the local vicar and in RE lessons. Pupils' efforts and achievements are recognised in weekly celebration worship. Pupils also value the 'socks off' awards for exceptional work and receive a pair of socks for this recognition. The pupil worship council feel a real sense of ownership through their regular meetings with the headteacher to plan, lead and evaluate worship. Furthermore, they consult with peers, clergy and governors to evaluate and improve the school's worship practice. For example, finding themselves without a regular Open the Book worship team, pupils decided to lead this worship themselves. Governors are actively involved in monitoring the effectiveness of worship, ensuring it is a clear expression of the Christian vision.

Pupils speak warmly and enthusiastically about RE lessons. They value and know the importance of learning about Christianity and a range of faiths and beliefs. They recognise the need to deepen and broaden their views. Pupils give thoughtful examples of how RE lessons help them to develop a range of values that are important for everyday life. Pupils demonstrate a secure subject knowledge in RE. This is clearly evident in their RE books which they are rightly proud of. The RE leader ensures that curriculum planning is effective and supports progression across the school. RE teaching is given high value and high priority. The school holds the REaction bronze award and has recently applied for silver. Furthermore, participation in several other projects, for example Spirited Arts and Glimpses of Faith helps to ensure pupils encounter a well-constructed and coherent RE provision. The RE leader is proactive in seeking, attending and sharing appropriate training from the local RE hub and diocese. This allows teachers to stay up to date with new ideas and teaching strategies. Effective monitoring systems ensure leaders and governors evaluate strengths and areas for improvement accurately. New assessment systems are in place to enable teachers to know how well pupils learn. However, as these are in their infancy, their impact on pupils' flourishing is not yet clear.

The dedicated headteacher is pivotal in creating a school community that lives out its Christian vision day by day. This is achieved in a strikingly normal, yet quite extraordinary way. As a parent stated, the headteacher 'is inspirational'. Bibury Church of England Primary School is very much a caring Christian community where all can truly flourish.



Information			
School	Bibury Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	5 December 2022
URN	146812	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Gloucester	Pupils on roll	28
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust (DGAT)		
Headteacher	Suki Pascoe		
Chair of Governors	Anthony Godwin		
Inspector	Christian McGuinness	No.	2113