

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

<b>St John's Mead Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	Hounds Close, Chipping Sodbury, BS37 6EE
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	Excellent

School's vision
<p>Valuing Effort, Valuing Others, Valuing Self.</p> <p>Our vision at St John's Mead is that every child should grow in wisdom, knowledge, and skills so that they may flourish as unique human beings created in God's likeness, knowing that they are loved and valued with the potential to make a difference in the world.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong and committed leadership has fully embedded the Christian vision in the life of the school resulting in pupils and adults flourishing. The vision links between the school and the new federation have yet to be decided.</li> <li>• Collective worship is excellent because it is transformational and far-reaching in its nourishing of the school and wider community.</li> <li>• Inspired by their vision and values, and by learning about other cultures in a range of curriculum areas, pupils are courageous advocates for change. However, the pandemic limited global links and visits to a range of places of worship.</li> <li>• The school provides a range of opportunities for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils through collective worship, religious education and the wider curriculum. However, reflection and prayer spaces are currently limited.</li> <li>• The highly effective leadership of Religious Education (RE) has a positive impact on pupils' learning of Christianity and other faiths. Pupils are respectful of the views and beliefs of others.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the well embedded vision and values of St John's Mead is reflected in the new federation vision so that the school's vision continues to enhance the lives of pupils, staff and the wider community.</li> <li>• Further embed the global dimension, by engaging in international projects and resuming visits to a range of places of worship, to deepen pupils' understanding of faiths in Britain and the wider world.</li> <li>• Continue to develop the prayer and reflective areas in school and within the grounds. In order to extend the spiritual development opportunities for all pupils and staff.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

St John's Mead is a school defined and driven by its deeply embedded Christian vision. As a result of consistent and comprehensive application of the vision and values, leaders have created an environment where all are empowered to be the best they can be. Pupils have a keen sense of self-worth because their vision teaches them to value themselves. Celebrating their unique value and welcoming all who attend creates a harmonious and loving school. Consequently, everyone is treated with respect. Governors know the school well and are fully involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of the vision. Leaders need to ensure that the newly formed federation has a vision that continues to galvanise St John's Mead as a leading light in the community.

Worship unites and nourishes the whole school community because of inspirational leadership. Explicit connections are made between the vision and biblical messages leading to a deeply loving culture of everyone being welcomed and valued. Pupils confidently articulate how worship inspires them personally to challenge views, respond and make a difference in the world. They are empowered to change behaviour or value all relationships in school. Staff talk of worship as a time for coming together as a family, and as a reminder of all that is good. Pupils are exceptionally confident at leading worship, making it creative and memorable using drama and a range of media. Due to a vacancy within the parish, the school has embraced visitors, 'Open the Book' and use of 'I-sing Pop' resources further enhance worship. As a result, pupils animatedly express their enjoyment saying how it leads to thoughtful and respectful approaches in their own lives. Worship during the pandemic surpassed parental expectations when the school reached out virtually, gathering online to spread words of hope. Pupils relish the lighting of the candles, welcoming and hearing response as a time for silence to open their hearts and minds to God, should they wish to do so. They have a secure understanding of the Christian belief in God as father, son and holy spirit. Invitational as well as spontaneous prayer, along with reflection opportunities develop a rich culture of spiritual growth.

Leaders ensure the curriculum reflects the school's vision and values so children realise their potential. Parents who have known the school for many years say the school's vision creates an atmosphere conducive to growing, loving and learning. Staff work tirelessly to improve outcomes for pupils to enable each child to flourish regardless of background. Teachers plan lessons so that children learn about the local area and the wider world at every opportunity. Exciting and interactive displays in the corridors enhance curriculum learning. Good use is made of the beautiful grounds, with lessons and worship often being held outside so children experience the awe and wonder of the world around them. Pupils explore big questions at the start of each topic and reflection times are built in, so pupils have further opportunities for spiritual development. Pupil participation in the Spirited Arts project has led to pupils developing an awareness of self-growth and their place in the world. 'Scrapstore' play pod resources are offered during social times so pupils have opportunities to work out problems together. Restorative conversations are used to learn forgiveness and as a result behaviour at St John's Mead is exemplary.

Extending the school vision out of class is part of the inherent ethos at St John's Mead to enable all to flourish. Leaders make courageous decisions so that pupils think of others locally and globally. Staff, local residents and parents offer many clubs or extra curriculum activities for pupils, modelling how they can make a difference to others. Pupils learn from these values and become leaders in school. Church members organise events such as the Christmas trail or Experience Easter. The school attends many Chipping Sodbury events such as the carnival, church services or the Crib Festival. These lead to children serving and

supporting the community and learning good moral citizenship. Pupils talk fondly of their friends in Hosanna School in Uganda although due to the pandemic links have weakened. Charity work and support for the community is frequently suggested by children who challenge inequality and injustice and are strong advocates for change. Shoeboxes for children abroad is supported each year, whilst closer to home children request to support the Bristol Hospital Wallace and South West Children's Hospice.

The Christian vision at St John's Mead determines the outstanding pastoral care within school and as a result staff morale is high and pupils enjoy coming to school. Pupils who found learning and socialising difficult in other schools have felt a warm welcome at St John's Mead. Staff training to be Mental Health First Aiders leads to everyone feeling their school is a second home and family. Office staff see their role as holistic, echoing the vision of valuing everyone as unique. Pupils take looking after themselves and others seriously. House captains see it as their role to nurture the younger children as well as organising activities in school. This leads to a school where all flourish as they are treated with dignity and respect.

Religious Education is led with passion and an unerring dedication to make sure children have the very best experiences. The RE leader ensures a mixture of resources so that staff are well supported. Consequently, pupils are offered a creative and media rich curriculum. Careful planning, with a focus on learning age-appropriate vocabulary, allows children to learn about theology, philosophy and human science. As a result, pupils talk confidently about a range of religions and differences of belief are accepted. Visits to a range of places of worship have been limited recently, but planning is in place to address this. Links are made between Bible stories and Christianity as a living faith to enable discussions about tackling bullying and racism. The vision's culture of valuing self and others means pupils are confident to express their views in a safe and respectful classroom. The vision of valuing all led to the school being recently recognised in its 'Widening Inclusion in Religious Education' gold award. The RE leader improves practice by sharing ideas and assessment strategies through local church school hub meetings and consequently pupils flourish well in RE.

The vision and values are at the heart of St John's Mead School. As the vision is lived out in all the activities that are shared, adults and pupils in school flourish, and church members and families grow together.

Information			
School	St John's Mead Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	17 November 2022
URN	109229	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Gloucester	Pupils on roll	305
Headteacher	Nicola Berry		
Chair of Governors	Dave Craddock		
Inspector	Carol Dougill	No.	2116