

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Botley Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	52, High Street, Botley, SO30 2EA
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
Through the core Christian values of respect, determination and stewardship, we aim to ensure that our school is a place in which everyone achieves, is supported, cared for and feels loved, safe and secure. Relationships are positive, enriching, compassionate and enabling and there is a focus upon looking after each other, our school, our wider community and God's world.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botley's Christian vision, driven by the values that lie within it, has a significant impact on the personal development of all pupils. The vision as a whole is not as well promoted as each individual value. • Pupils flourish at Botley and leaders and governors monitor this carefully. However, the school does not have a systematic approach to monitoring the effectiveness of the school's Christian vision. • The strong and supportive links with the parish church express well both the church's and the school's Christian vision of service to the whole community. • The growing expertise of the religious education leader (RE) has driven forward improvements the RE curriculum. However, RE does not have a sufficiently raised profile in the school curriculum. • The worship programme plays an important role in school life. It is an expression of the school's Christian vision which is developed through Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the collective worship and RE initiatives, which are rooted in biblical teaching, into school life. Build on this so that the vision is consistently recognised as a driving force for school development. • Establish a more robust and systematic process to monitoring the impact of the school's distinctive Christian vision so that leaders know how effective the school is as a church school. • RE needs to be prioritised by school leaders to enable appropriate improvements to be made.

Inspection findings

Botley's Christian vision begins with their 'heart' values of respect, determination and stewardship. Everything in the vision flows from these values. They are central to everything that the school does. The vision and values are implicitly embedded in the daily life of the school resulting in the culture of 'love, care and nurture' of both pupils and adults that is so important to the school. They are linked with the teachings of Jesus and Bible stories during collective worship. This deepens pupils' understanding of the impact the values can have on their lives. As a result, these values are known, lived and articulated by all pupils and adults. Pupils readily explain how these values and their biblical links support the choices they make. Although all at the school live the vision, it is not as well known as the values that steer it.

The school has an extremely strong and mutually beneficial relationship with All Saints, the Parish church. The vicar is a much-loved and valued member of the school community and visits the school weekly which strengthens the relationship between the church and the school. The whole school celebrates the major Christian festivals in the church. Each class visits the church for half a day a year for extremely well organised activities which bring the RE curriculum to life. An example being when the Easter story is vividly recreated for the year groups learning about Easter. The school's singing squad perform at special church services. A member of the All Saints congregation has been working with the school's prayer group. As a result the group have developed skills that enable them to write really inspirational, uplifting prayers. Working with the diocese has led to improvements in worship and RE such as worship being planned around Bible stories and more creative teaching approaches in RE.

The school places great importance on their Christian value of respect. They offer a safe and welcoming place for all God's children. Numerous visitors to the school support the pupils' understanding that difference exists in the world and that this is positive. Pupils have been inspired by hearing the life stories and determination of visitors such as Chris Lubbe and Aaron Phipps. The use of the 'No Outsiders Literature' used by all classes as part of the curriculum reinforces that everyone must be treated with dignity and respect. The inclusive Christian belief that 'we are made in the image of God and loved unconditionally by him' is actively promoted by all. Consequently, incidents of prejudice-based behaviours are very limited.

The school's holistic approach to teaching and learning has resulted in a broad curriculum which offers many opportunities to develop pupils' spirituality. The headteacher has established numerous systems that support academic progress, mental health and wellbeing enabling pupils and adults, including parents, to flourish and succeed. The school is justifiably proud of its strong tradition and emphasis on sport, an important aspect of their holistic approach to learning. Pupils describe how the school's Christian value of determination helps them to achieve, particularly in the many sports that they can participate in.

The school, through its broad curriculum and outside activities, provides Botley pupils with a wealth of opportunities to develop their spirituality. The beautiful outdoor learning, vegetable and planting area is a wonderful example of pupils living their value of stewardship, 'of caring for God's world'. They have planted bee loving plants for their bee project, have bird boxes and water for birds and provide excess vegetables to the church for distribution. A beautifully designed quiet reflection area planted by the pupils provides opportunities for prayer and reflection in the garden. Outside worship takes place in front of this area. The value of stewardship and caring for the environment has led Year 5 and 6 pupils to become advocates for change by attending Parish Council meetings to present their views on how they would



like to see the local community developed in the future. One impact of this are the litter picks take place locally.

In fulfilling the vision statement of looking after each other, pupils lead events to support charities that are personally meaningful to them such as the Portsmouth Downs Syndrome Association and organising blue nail varnish day to raise awareness of diabetes. The school works together as a whole to support projects across the world such as toilet twinning in Africa. This teaches pupils about the challenges that people have to overcome sometimes.

Collective worship is based on the school's Christian values and key festivals in the church year. It is planned so that pupils make links between biblical teaching and the school's Christian values and consider how these might relate to their own actions. Pupils and staff engage well in worship and recognise its importance in exploring school values and considering the impact of these on life in and outside of school. In worship pupils are engaged, respectful, good at listening and eager to respond. There is an increasingly strong link being made between worship in school and at the church with Anglican traditions being incorporated into worship. A variety of school staff, the vicar from All Saints and Kings Community Church lead worship giving pupils the opportunity to experience worship in a variety of ways. Prayers frame the school day. The Year 6 prayer team begin the day in every class with a prayer that they have written. Prayers are sung at lunchtime and the day ends with a prayer. Inviting and well-designed reflection areas in each classroom provide opportunities for pupils to pray or reflect during the day. These examples of prayer have led to pupils confidently writing prayers of their own.

RE is led by an enthusiastic subject leader who cascades training that she has undertaken to other staff. RE is not given a high profile within the school curriculum and is not prioritised by senior leaders, consequently the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement is not fully met. However, RE is clearly and sequentially structured with an approach that is understood by all staff. The recent monitoring and evaluation by the RE subject leader is resulting in improvements. Staff have recently undertaken training on using more creative approaches to teaching RE. Consequently, pupils enjoy RE lessons. However, there are not enough opportunities that challenge pupils to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical thoughts deeply enough. The school has a sound assessment system in place and parents are informed of their child's achievements in RE. However, these assessments are not collated to inform governors of standards nor incorporated in governor monitoring. Learning in RE is strengthened by impactful visits and talks. The teaching of Christianity is supported by the vicar and the church who contribute to the RE curriculum. Teaching about Hinduism, Judaism and Islam is enhanced by visitors and the school's own pupils from those faiths. This has given the pupils an increased understanding and respect for all.



Information			
School	Botley Church of England VC Primary School	Inspection date	18 January 2023
URN	116273	VC/VA/ Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Portsmouth; Winchester	Pupils on roll	584
Headteacher	Joe Cooil		
Chair of Governors	Daniel Underwood		
Inspector	Janice Meyer	No.	921