

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hook-with-Warsash Church of England Primary Academy	
Address	Church Road, Warsash, SO31 9GF
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 style="text-align: center;">"Let Your Light Shine"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 5:16</p> <p>To provide an inspirational environment based on Christian values where individuals can excel and flourish academically, socially, and emotionally, preparing them for life's journey.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The well-established distinctive Christian vision, lived and breathed by the whole community, exerts a strong influence on everything that happens at this school. • The vision ensures that everyone is valued. There is an overwhelming sense of being part of a warm and caring community. • Pupils engage in social action activities with real enthusiasm although becoming courageous advocates for change is less well developed. • Collective worship is incredibly strong and highly valued by adults and pupils. It is an essential element in developing the rich culture of deep reflection which exists in the school. • Religious education (RE) is greatly appreciated by pupils. However, pupils do not at present have an explicit understanding of worldviews and within the RE curriculum there is not enough balance between the teaching of theology, philosophy and social science.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with pupils to help them move from social action to advocating for justice on behalf of others in the wider world. • Ensure that pupils develop a more explicit understanding of worldviews in RE. • Adjust the balance between the teaching of theology, philosophy and social science so that pupils gain a more rounded view in RE.

Inspection findings

An ambition for deep and meaningful flourishing which allows pupils to succeed underpins everything which happens at this school. Adults and pupils speak confidently about the words 'let your light shine' encapsulating the essence of 'individuals can flourish academically, socially and emotionally.' Leaders are passionate about providing an inspirational environment where this happens as a matter of course. Preparing pupils for life's journey is their clear goal. They articulate how the vision is grounded in theology firmly rooted in a Christian narrative. The core values of love and trust are at the centre of other values which enable the vision to become a reality. Pupils of all ages speak powerfully about these values. They recognise when others live them out. Parents are fully involved; they are delighted to send notes into school recognising values children have shown at home. Because the vision and values are so well-established, families talk about them as being integral to the school. They are not just part of its history, but living and lived out daily.

Governors are highly involved in all aspects of school life and are key in the development of the vision and values. Both governors and other school leaders work closely with the diocese. They ensure that all staff understand what it is to be part of a church school. Close links are nurtured with individual staff through their 'adopt a governor' system. They are very mindful of the wellbeing of all staff and particularly the headteacher. They support her in many ways including holding frequent meetings and visiting. They monitor the effectiveness of the vision through all committees and especially the 'forging links' meetings. These focus specifically on the strong, mutually beneficial, relationship with the local church.

A rich and engaging curriculum, clearly shaped by the vision, ensures that pupils are being well prepared for their life's journey. Pupils across the school speak confidently about their future aspirations. Bold strategic decisions were made during the COVID pandemic such as initiating programmes addressing pupils' social and emotional needs as they returned to school. Leaders are clear that academic excellence only develops when these needs have been met. Parents appreciate this aspect of the vision. Many send their children here because of this strong emphasis on nurturing the whole child.

Being part of a loving church school community is highly valued by parents of all worldviews. They feel completely included. This is attributed to the vision which is fully understood and embraced. There is a continuing focus on ambitious academic standards. High quality provision for SEND is a clear priority. Staff know pupils extremely well. Individual pupils are thriving, due to patient and loving support over long periods of time. Leaders show quiet patience when dealing with challenging situations.

Pupils, staff and governors share an understanding of spirituality which is deeply embedded in school life. They speak eloquently about looking out at the world, looking inside themselves and beyond this world. These ideas are introduced in Early Years and developed throughout the school. There are many opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually during the school day. Parents talk about the language their children use at home to express how they see the world. Pupils in Year 6 demonstrate a mature understanding of what it means to be a spiritual being.

Pupils are enthusiastic about doing things which will make a difference to others and attribute this to the vision. They look beyond themselves through fundraising activities and support a wide range of causes. Staff provide many opportunities to encourage this throughout the curriculum and in collective worship. However, being able to advocate for justice on behalf of others in the wider world is yet to be developed.

Mental health and wellbeing are a clear priority for everyone in the community. This is



planned for intentionally through staff being trained as mental health first aiders and emotional literacy support assistants. Pupils who have been bereaved receive timely support which is greatly appreciated by parents. This continues over time as staff are acutely aware of challenges which carry into the future. Staff often identify and address concerns without being asked to. As people in the community genuinely love and trust each other, they feel safe to try new things without fearing failure. There is a palpable sense of supportive shared life throughout the school which visitors immediately recognise and often comment on. Staff give many examples of how they are being cared for during their own challenging circumstances.

Through the curriculum difference and diversity are celebrated and pupils have a clear understanding of how people live differently. They are also exploring the connection Christianity has with Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide. They have informed and thoughtful discussions on these issues.

RE is given a high priority and is greatly enjoyed by pupils. They discuss a range of religions in an extremely respectful and informed way. However, pupils show little explicit understanding of worldviews. In the curriculum there is insufficient balance between the teaching of theology, philosophy and social science. The RE leader is very knowledgeable and creatively adapts the Understanding Christianity resource to enhance the local syllabus. She engages with training from the diocese and the local authority and participates in local RE networks. RE provided in this school is of a very high standard.

Collective worship is at the beating heart of the school's daily routines. Both adults and pupils are extremely eager to gather together to share in worship, prayer, reflection and joyous singing. They talk about how they are continually drawn to reflect on the essential meaning of life at these times. They enthusiastically share the insights they have gained with others, such as inspiring them to care for the planet. Pupils feel deeply involved in the creation of worship as members of the worship council. They have a wide impact in these roles. Worship begins the moment pupils leave their classrooms, each class bringing their own candle to the shared table. They frequently refer to the impact worship has on them. The RE leader plans an exemplary annual cycle of collective worship, ensuring an incredibly rich range of themes are covered. Local clergy lead worship weekly and are considered highly valued facilitators by pupils, staff and parents. Termly lunchtime prayer meetings attract large numbers of pupils who are eager to gather together for stillness, reflection and prayer.

Pupils and adults flourish at Hook-with-Warsash because of the long-established vision which is known and loved by all. Leaders quietly and patiently live out that vision so that newcomers quickly understand it and begin to live it too.



Information			
School	Hook-with-Warsash Church of England Primary Academy	Inspection date	30 January 2023
URN	138719	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Portsmouth; Winchester	Pupils on roll	409
Headteacher	Sara Willoughby		
Chair of Governors	Luke Bailey		
Inspector	Marion Standing	No.	971