

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Pembridge Church of England Primary School	
Address	Bearwood Lane, Pembridge, HR6 9EA
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
Pembridge is a school where we encourage everyone to be inspired through faith in God and to live by Christian values so that our teaching and learning is of the highest quality, our whole community flourishes and we reflect all that is worthy of praise.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspirational leaders and staff work unceasingly to ensure the Christian vision is deeply embedded throughout the school. This creates a culture of aspiration and hope which transforms lives, enabling all to flourish. • Relationships are profoundly supportive. A palpable sense of a community at peace empowers all to face, and conquer, challenges. Leaders strongly aware of the school's rural context, continually strive to find further ways to enhance pupils' awareness of life in the wider world. • The school community empowers its members to take bold actions to ensure transformation. Pupils act enthusiastically and confidently as agents for influential, positive change. • Religious education (RE) is expertly led. A highly effective, cohesively planned curriculum enables all learners to succeed. Precise, pivotal assessment strategies ensure that pupils are challenged extremely effectively and so routinely surpass expectations. Deeper engagement with biblical text would further enhance this. • Highly inspirational collective worship provides deeply poignant opportunities for reflection, spiritual development and prayer. Meaningful moments to reflect on the meaning and mystery of life nourish and enrich lives.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further expand pupils' awareness of global issues and worldviews to better prepare them for life in a wider society. • Enhance opportunities for pupils to deepen their engagement with biblical text and current developments in RE. This is to further enrich their religious literacy and their knowledge as theological, critical thinkers.

Inspection findings

The deeply Christian vision of Pembridge school is inextricably woven throughout school life. Leaders unswervingly communicate the vision to 'be inspired by faith in God'. The vision is underpinned by the words of St Paul in the Bible (Philippians 4 verses 8-9). In particular, 'think about the things which are good and worthy of praise' drives leaders' unstinting passion of excellence for all. Staff express this strongly as 'it is who we are'. Their steadfastly positive approach enables all to succeed to the uttermost. Consequently, hope pervades the character of the school and is a catalyst for positive change. Christian values powerfully infuse all areas of the life, relationships and mission of the community.

Inspired by the vision, aspirational teaching is transformative. Meticulous and coherent planning strengthens the impact of the vision, so all pupils have opportunities to thrive. The cohesive curriculum is structured around innovative learning journeys. Pupils use of excellently planned keys to learning equips them to unlock information and answer challenging questions wisely. Pupils know how to improve their knowledge and skills further through the inventive, rigorous, on-going assessment opportunities. The focus on enriching the curriculum through creative engagement with environmental and social challenge excites pupils. Pupils' enthusiasm empowers them to grasp challenge and to live the fulness of life which God intends. Governors are highly focused in systematically evaluating the effectiveness of the school's vision. This informs precise, high quality school improvement and effective allocation of resources. Pupils are prepared well for life's challenges. They benefit from facing new encounters, such as water polo, in the curriculum. One pupil describes how this helps them 'to be the best we can possibly be at everything, so we surprise ourselves'. Pupils, including those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), achieve extremely well.

Relationships are vibrant and life-affirming. Each person in the community is valued as unique and treasured by God. Exceptional and comprehensive support for staff, both professionally and personally, ensures adults flourish at Pembridge. Staff are highly competent in supporting pupils with the skills to help them make life changing decisions. Pupils are exemplary in being able to resolve issues, through demonstrating loving thoughtfulness for each other. The deeply held vision drives a relentless, all-encompassing compassion for pupils and adults. Parents enthuse about how the school has 'gone the extra mile' in dedicated support of families at times of hardship. The whole school community is therefore 'inspired by faith' and highly valued.


Pupils are exceptionally well-rounded learners. High quality staff training has major impact in the profound way it nurtures spiritual development. Learning behaviours such as 'awareness of wonder' and 'being curious' have deep impact. Pupils develop inquisitiveness and personal response to life through these being inspirationally woven into curriculum learning expectations. Leaders are highly committed to ensuring that the whole school environment reflects 'all that is beautiful and honourable'. The centrality and focus on the spiritual garden reinforce the deep importance of personal reflection and prayer within the school. Pupils' spiritual development strengthens their character. Pupils articulate with clarity how contemplation and prayer equip them to make life changing choices.

Lives are changed at Pembridge as it such a highly inclusive school. This is directly inspired and driven by the distinctively Christian vision for the whole community to flourish. School staff rapidly spot any pupil who is struggling and take immediate action so that they thrive. They continually seek ways to support each individual lovingly and effectively. Leaders are not afraid of making brave decisions and provision often goes beyond that which is to be expected. This is deeply valued by a number of outside agencies and life-changing in impact.

Bespoke provision for individuals is pivotal and ensures that even those identified as the most vulnerable reach their full potential. The school is exemplary in equipping children to be resilient and to overcome personal challenge. They are well prepared to live the fullness of life that God intends. Pupils act boldly making decisions for change in a broken world. There are innumerable, compelling examples of how pupils take the initiative in living out Christian values of ethical and social justice. Eco-club and school council are particularly proactive in being agents of change. Pupils have arranged school's provision of milk to change to recyclable containers to demonstrate care for God's world. The 'Kindness Matters' programme introduced by school council is celebrated and embraced by all pupils. The selfless dedication to enrich community wellbeing through Christian love shines through pupil and adult interactions.

Vibrant collective worship is central to school life and highly valued by pupils and adults. The Christian values are embedded through the biblical message, with time for personal prayer and reflection. Pupils engage eagerly in expressive singing, drama and readings. There is a profoundness which impacts on lives of pupils and adults alike. Pupils, frequently and confidently, take responsibility for leading worship. Subsequently, this enhances their own spiritual growth to flourish. Meaningful opportunities attending worship provide powerful moments for spiritual development of parents. One example is the inspirational and meaningful shared writing of poems about Jesus as light in the world. The vision for everyone to be 'inspired by faith in God' drives impactful support for the local church. The school's positive contribution is marked in a wealth of ways. These include leading worship at church, prayer events, artwork displays and shared celebrations of festivals, as well as social action. Pupils significantly inspire hope in the church community and beyond.

The RE curriculum is innovative and exceptionally well-planned. Staff access high quality training, so teaching is highly engaging and effective. Memorable rich learning activities motivate pupils. For example, pupils auctioned values to help them clarify what was of importance to humanists and Christians. Pupils are highly aspirational. They fully embrace widespread opportunities to be curious and engage with challenging questions. They routinely recall prior learning accurately. Assessment opportunities are intrinsically woven throughout learning so that pupils develop high levels of expertise and knowledge. Pupils regularly achieve beyond expectations. Pupils are inspired to express their opinions and beliefs because they feel safe and secure. They articulate, with great clarity and sensitivity, the diversity and common ground between various faith communities and world views. Therefore, RE is highly effective in developing dignity and respect for others. The school is powerfully inspired by its vision to be transformative in the wider community of schools. Its dynamic collaborations with the Diocese and beyond, successfully and comprehensively enrich the lives of its partners.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	School leaders and governors relentlessly seek ways to further enhance the already exceptional quality of teaching and learning in RE. Passionately enthusiastic teachers have excellent subject knowledge, ensuring pupil engagement is commendably high. Highly innovative assessment systems ensure pupils accurately understand how to enhance their work further. The quality of pupils' interactions and written work in RE is deeply impressive. All pupils, including those deemed to be vulnerable, make sustained progress and characteristically achieve beyond expectations.			
Information				
School	Pembridge Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	30 January 2023	
URN	116906	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Hereford	Pupils on roll	80	
Headteacher	Robert Hollis			
Chair of Governors	Sharron Goode			
Inspector	Jan Potter	No.	939	