

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Brighton	
Address	St Nicholas Road, Brighton, BN1 3LP
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
<p>'Love thy neighbour as thyself. There is no commandment greater than these' -Mark 12:31</p> <p>St. Paul's CE School promotes the Christian faith within a warm and loving atmosphere, so that our children achieve their educational goals and fulfil their individual God given potential. Our aim is to give everyone opportunity and encouragement to develop 'Foundations for the future' through our key values of WISDOM, HOPE, COMMUNITY, DIGNITY.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This excellent school's Christian vision is deeply embedded. It securely underpins and flows consistently through all aspects of life in this deeply Christian school. It informs exemplary, coherent practices that have a transformational impact on the lives, learning and well-being of the school community. • The school's Christian leadership is outstanding and rigorously supported by governors and the three local churches. The inspirational headteacher's skill and passion motivates staff and drives the school's transformational development enabling exceptional flourishing of the whole community. • The school has a rich, deeply embedded culture of prayer, reflection, and spiritual development. They are powerfully promoted through inspirational collective worship, excellent religious education, and high-quality spiritual opportunities in school life. • Strong, mutually beneficial partnerships exist with the local churches, community and schools in Spain and Uganda. These are a practical expression of the vision promoting meaningful, high-quality social action. Pupils' understanding of the impact of Christianity on the lives of these schools is strong but not fully developed in the wider world context. • Pupils flourish in religious education (RE) through excellent, high-quality provision that consistently expresses the vision and reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. It enables pupils to develop a strong understanding of Christianity and other world faiths and views.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish new global partnerships, and further develop existing ones, to extend pupils' knowledge and understanding of the impact of Christianity on the lives of people worldwide.



Inspection findings

St Paul's deeply embedded Christian vision to 'love thy neighbour' is at the heart of this excellent school. It holistically shapes the strategic and operational direction of the school and informs exemplary practices. This makes a transformational impact on the lives, learning and wellbeing of the school's diverse community. Profoundly positive relationships that flow from living the vision create a cohesively warm, nurturing environment. This enables the community to flourish in fulfilling their God given potential for learning and development. The especially close partnership with three local churches provides rich opportunities for spiritual development and strong Christian guidance. This enables the community to compellingly live out the school's vision and values. The school's Christian leadership is outstanding. The inspirational headteacher's skill and passion powerfully motivates staff and leaders at all levels. This positively drives the school's rapid, transformational development enabling exceptional flourishing of the whole school community. Well informed governors provide robust support and challenge. Rigorous, highly effective monitoring and evaluation involving the whole school community accurately inform school developments and spending decisions that strongly align with the vision.

Inspirational collective worship is the heart of the school day. It is much valued by the school's diverse community for its inclusiveness and transformational impact. Worship imaginatively explores the vision and values through the teachings of Jesus and the Bible enabling pupils to strongly develop their religious literacy and spirituality. It is planned, delivered, monitored and evaluated with an effective balance of pupil and adult involvement. Through the special close, relationship with the local churches, pupils experience a diverse variety of different styles of Christian worship led by a range of visitors. Worship follows the liturgical church year with regular, high-quality opportunities for pupils to engage with the Eucharist. Pupils confidently demonstrate age-appropriate knowledge and understanding of Anglican traditions and the importance of the Trinity. A rich variety of worship, music, songs and prayers reflecting different world faiths and languages, celebrate the school's diversity. These strongly promote respect and inclusion and enable pupils to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world.

The school has a rich, deeply embedded culture of prayer, reflection and high-quality opportunities for spiritual development. Excellently resourced prayer areas in classrooms and around the school are richly enhance by daily Christian meditation. These are deeply valued for reflection of the worship theme and opportunity for personal spiritual development. The school's shared understanding of spiritual development enables staff to confidently move beyond planned opportunities and respond to spontaneous opportunities that occur. Worship, prayer and reflection powerfully influence pupils' lives. This is clearly evidenced in their meaningful thoughts and feelings that are recorded in their highly valued spiritual journals.


A powerful culture of positive behaviour and relationships flow from living the vision. Exemplary relationships create a deeply caring environment where pupils and adults are nurtured and cherished. The impact is seen in the tangible ways the community is supported by outstanding practical and compassionate care. Highly effective procedures and coherent initiatives strongly promote good mental health and welfare. This encourages resilience and promotes the school's value of hope through Jesus. Imaginative strategies enable pupils to recognise and manage their emotions and behaviour. Forgiveness and reconciliation are firmly understood and established. These initiatives and strategies powerfully transform pupils' keenness to attend school and readiness for learning. The impact is high attendance, resilient learners who enjoy school, and exemplary behaviour. Innovative, award-winning



adaptions to the curriculum reflect the school's rich diversity. Pupils learn from and celebrate their diverse backgrounds. Treating everyone with respect is deeply embedded contributing significantly to the school's exemplary relationships. Excellent staff training and imaginative deployment provides effective, high-quality, focused support that meets the needs of all pupils. This has a transformational impact on pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), have English as an additional language, or who are new to the school. This support ensures pupils achieve high levels of individual progress relative to their needs and abilities.

Diverse, quality opportunities are provided for the school community to live out the vision. Well-chosen forums enable pupils to participate effectively in school decision making and voice their opinions and aspirations. Pupils confidently articulate how the school's vision and values support them and demonstrate clear dignity and strong respect for each other when discussing big questions. Exemplary, mutually beneficial, highly valued partnerships with the local community and schools in Spain and Uganda are a practical expression of the vision. Inspired to promote the vision in the wider world, the school community engages in meaningful social action and courageous advocacy. Pupils confidently initiate and lead innovative, imaginative whole-school fundraising and social action projects to address local and global poverty, injustice, and environmental exploitation. A close, special relationship with a school in Uganda engages the school community in a particularly meaningful social project. These school partnerships strongly enable pupils to understand the impact of Christianity on the lives of these two schools. However, this knowledge and understanding is not fully developed in the wider world context.

Religious education has a high status and is excellently taught across the school. Exemplary RE leadership ensures high-quality provision that securely reflects the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement and expresses the vision. Effective and imaginative use is made of a creative and inspiring curriculum, the close partnership with the local churches, and the religious backgrounds of the school. Consequently, pupils have a strong knowledge and high understanding of different world religions and views including the Trinity and Christianity as a living world faith. The positive relationships of the community create an environment in which pupils feel safe to critically explore and discuss complex religious concepts and big questions. Through rigorous and effective monitoring, evaluation and recording, teachers have an accurate knowledge and understanding of pupils' RE learning. High-quality school based and diocesan training for staff and clergy ensures that quality RE is sustained. The excellence of RE is reflected in the subject leader actively inspiring and supporting its development in other schools within the local authority.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>RE teaching and learning is excellent. High quality, provision using Understanding Christianity, local churches and the school community's religious backgrounds results in a rich, engaging curriculum. Imaginative and creative teaching and learning is applied consistently across the school and adapted appropriately to meet pupils' individual needs. Rigorous and exemplary assessment and recording alongside excellent personalised feedback enables pupils to reflect on and develop their learning. Consequently, all pupils, including those with SEND, make excellent progress.</p>			
Information				
School	St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Brighton	Inspection date	13 January 2023	
URN	114543	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Chichester	Pupils on roll	176	
Headteacher	Michelle Lord			
Chair of Governors	Fr. Dominic Keech and Angie Fantis (Joint Chairs)			
Inspector	Richard Dyer	No.	513	