

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Chinnor	
Address	Station Road, Chinnor, OX39 4PU
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

School's vision
We aim to bring children to a place where they can realise their full potential. 'Always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' (1 Corinthians 13:7) As a 'restless' school our vision is evident in the actions of all stakeholders to ensure successful outcomes for our whole school community and partnerships beyond school.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivated by the school's vision, St Andrew's leaders have created a dynamic, vibrant, and exciting learning community. It is seen as a beacon within the diocese where it shares its innovative practice, particularly as global citizens. • Pastoral care is exemplary. Leaders ensured that proficient, committed and appreciated staff are aptly equipped to serve pupils and their families well. • The curriculum is broad, stimulating, and inclusive. Provision for pupils experiencing Speech, Language, and Communication or Autistic Spectrum Disorder is innovative. Opportunities to experience a spiritual dimension to learning are embedded within the curriculum. • Collective worship is fundamental to school life. It is thought provoking and inspirational. Moments for reflection are used to maximise spiritual growth. The support of the local church community serves to deepen pupils' understanding of Christianity as a living faith. • Highly effective religious education (RE) significantly strengthens pupils' understanding of world religions and worldviews. Accurate monitoring of RE enables staff to continually improve effective and ambitious curriculum plans.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop collaborative links with the diocese so that others benefit from the remarkable impact of St Andrew's vision and practice.



Inspection findings

The transformational impact of St Andrew's distinctive Christian vision permeates every aspect of school life. Inspirational and dynamic leaders are keen to ensure that their community 'always protects, always hopes, always trusts, and always perseveres' (1 Corinthians 13:7). This elevates everyone's experience of learning and living well together. Governors and clergy give generously of their time and energy to ensure that the vision is maintained and remains dynamic. Through diocese training, they have an insightful understanding of the purpose of a Church school. St Andrew's exceptional care and support is effectively utilised as a leader for initial teacher training. Professional development for all is a high priority. Staff flourish because they know leaders care deeply about their wellbeing. There is a great sense of joy and fulfilment amongst them. Motivated by the school's vision, they nurture every pupil.

The St Andrew's community show a 'restless' compassion for the wider world. All ardently seek to challenge injustice and inequality whenever possible. They have been successfully commended the Gold: Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) and the International School Award (ISA). These accolades testify to the excellent quality of the school's provision to empower pupils to be advocates for change. They coalesce with the heart of St Andrew's vision. From this starting point the school supports an extensive number of social action partnerships, many initiated by the pupils. Pupils convey a sincere empathy for others that they eagerly translate into positive acts of kindness. They are keen to offer the school's vision of hope and protection to others. Consequently, each class advocates causes they wish to support. These include an international toilet twinning scheme and help for families impacted by the Ukraine crisis. Through learning with Nqaba Primary School, South Africa, pupils champion composting in sustainable ways that increases food growth.

St Andrew's exemplary curriculum is ambitious and challenging. It encourages a growth mind-set that allows everyone to learn from their mistakes. Therefore, pupils become resilient learners with a positive approach to challenge. They confidently take age-appropriate ownership of their learning. Through adhering to the principles of RRSA and ISA, the curriculum brings the wider world into the classroom. Exemplary aspects of these are highlighted by the diocese to serve as an example to others. Children's learning incorporates a holistic approach to academic and spiritual development. Consequently, excellent opportunities exist for pupils to explore spirituality across all subjects. Examples include regarding the wonder of pattern in Maths, the beauty of words in Literacy, and moments of awe during outdoor learning.

The school has an additional class for those needing support for Speech, Language, and Communication or Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Work in this area is a significant strength. Staff are exemplary in their inclusion of all vulnerable pupils. For example, learners with additional needs attend lessons before school. Thus, they can access mainstream classes with their peers during the day. Investment in training and resources, adeptly deployed, bring life-transforming skills to vulnerable pupils. This exemplifies leaders' strong Christian commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Pastoral support for pupils and families is exemplary. It demonstrates the school's understanding of Christian love as expressed in its vision. Parents say that staff frequently go beyond their teaching roles in being readily available to them. They feel they are listened to, and their family situations taken account of. This includes transition into secondary school where staff visit to ensure that wellbeing and flourishing continues. Clergy, parishioners, and staff, particularly those who support children and families, work well together. This is fundamental to St Andrew's inspirational impact as a Church school. It creates purposeful



and deep links between the school and the church. The highly skilled pastoral support team act as a bridge to ensure the vision has a transformative impact within the wider community. Their work is life changing for pupils and families. It has overcome generational barriers to learning. Wellbeing is passionately championed by all. A transformational and life-enhancing culture of forgiveness and reconciliation are expressions of their exceptional achievement. The new Garden Room, a haven for those experiencing social and emotional challenges, is highly successful. Here, an ethos of patient endeavour cultivates pupils' personal, spiritual, and academic development. There is an active acceptance of everyone as an individual, invaluable to God. This echoes the school's vision to 'always protect'. Consequently, adults build up confidence and self-esteem allowing pupils to fulfil their potential. As a result, they readily flourish.

Exemplary RE practice successfully develops pupils' exploration of theology, philosophy, and human science. Learners skilfully articulate the knowledge they attain regarding world religions and worldviews and express their own ideas coherently. They recognise RE as a safe place for discussions. In line with the school's spirituality statement, they are given opportunities to look back and reflect on their experiences. They are proud of their 'big question' books that showcase their skills of analysis, and interpretation. RE incorporates many aspects of the RRSA and ISA programmes, which promotes understanding of Christianity as a living and diverse faith. Through accurate monitoring adults understand what pupils learn in RE and how well they progress. This enables further insightful and ambitious curriculum plans. RE effectively contributes to pupils' flourishing.

Collective worship is deeply reflective. It develops a Christian understanding of the world and the place of the individual within it. It is invitational, inspirational, and inclusive. Additionally, it respects other faiths and worldviews whilst remaining confident of its own position. Class worship ensures that Christian themes are unpicked in age-appropriate ways. Pupils enjoy leading and being part of worship. Parents express the joy they feel through attending school or church. Additionally, contemplative worship practices are built into everyday life. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about these opportunities and recognise them as opportunities for spiritual growth. Reflection spaces are available within classrooms and across the school grounds. They are integral to everyday life and support a rich culture of deep contemplation. Worship is enhanced by the dedicated support of local clergy. Consequently, pupils experience aspects of Anglican tradition and practice. In addition, the church community leads a programme of RE lessons and a weekly bible club. As a result, pupils have an excellent understanding of the teachings of Jesus and the place of Christianity in the modern world. Engaging activities based on Christian values that are associated with the vision are promoted on the school's website. This innovative approach enables families to nurture and embed the vision at home.

In every relationship and partnership, St Andrew's lives out its vision in impressive and inspirational ways. It is a show-case within the diocese of exemplary practice. Its activities are worthy of sharing with other schools.



Information			
School	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Chinnor	Inspection date	30 March 2023
URN	123126	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Oxford	Pupils on roll	412
Headteacher	Annette Mashru		
Chair of Governors	Seb Hearmon		
Inspector	Delia Sheppard	No.	942