

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Court-de-Wyck Church School, Claverham	
Address	Bishop Road, Claverham, Bristol, BS49 4NF
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>'Growing together, Belonging and Achieving'.</p> <p>Everybody in our caring Christian community inspiring, nurturing and challenging each other to do their best in mind, body and spirit to achieve more than they ever thought possible. Our school vision is underpinned by the Bible verse John 10: 10 'That they shall have life, life in all its fullness'.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school promotes an effective Christian vision through strong leadership which ensures the flourishing of pupils and adults. However, the vision is not reflected in all policies. • Collective worship is an excellent feature of the school, thoroughly supporting the vision and with highly significant impact. Pupils and adults are comprehensively inspired to spiritual reflection reflection and action in all aspects of life. • Religious education (RE) is effectively taught with pupils demonstrating confident reflection skills. There is a maturity of thought evident in the way pupils discuss the theology and philosophy of religion. • Governors show a strong commitment to the vision, but formal plans for development as a Church school are limited. • A clear definition of spirituality is in place together with a strategy for promoting spiritual thinking. Opportunities for implementing this throughout the curriculum are not fully identified.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify rich opportunities for promoting spiritual development in all subject areas to show pupils and adults that spirituality pervades all of life. • Strengthen the focus of governors on Church school distinctiveness, ensuring a broader range of ideas in the development plan to drive improvement. • Make the vision more explicit and evident in all policies to show how it drives and motivates all areas of school life.



Inspection findings

The headteacher, staff and governors promote an effective Christian vision and values. They celebrate and live 'life in all its fullness' supported by membership of the Bath and Wells multi-academy trust (BWMAT). The vision links with the wider Trust vision, and the relationship has mutual and substantial benefit. The school feels strongly supported by the Trust and makes contributions to other schools involved. A committed team of local governors monitors and evaluates the vision's impact supported by an ethos committee. However, using evaluation to drive improvement as a Church school is not clear. Although the development plan has some priorities it lacks a strong strategic direction. The link between the vision and written school policies is not explicit in all of them. As an example, the behaviour policy is clearly rooted in the vision but others do not mention it. However, the vision is truly lived by pupils and is apparent in positive relationships and good behaviour. Pupils readily link the Christian values with Bible stories. The school has a very strong sense of community driven by the vision. This is seen in supportive partnerships between the school, parents, the church, and the wider community. Spirituality is evident through a shared definition understood by pupils and adults. The school is working on deepening this in all activities. The diocese also provides strong support to the school through training and advice.

The school lives the Christian vision through comprehensive pastoral and academic care in educating and supporting all pupils. Parents speak warmly of the support given to pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). As a result, these and other pupils progress well in line with the vision of 'life in all its fullness'. (John 10: 10). Parents appreciate the approachability of staff, and communications through fortnightly newsletters. They also appreciate regular coffee mornings where governors are present. There is a sense that everyone is valued, with needs appropriately met. There is a broad curriculum and developing opportunities to encourage spiritual growth. Special examples of this include 'God's Secret Garden' at the centre of the school, and reflection areas in every classroom. Pupils speak readily of how they use these to reflect on spiritual moments. Opportunities for further spiritual development in all subject areas are discussed but not formally identified. Pupils demonstrate high quality reflection on their learning, and readily make connections with biblical material. The vision ensures the mental health and wellbeing of the school community. As a result, adults and pupils feel well cared for and supported. Staff also express their appreciation of professional development opportunities. The impact of this is seen in the enthusiasm of developing middle leaders.

Pupils react readily to reflective moments in lessons, and informally in conversation. They understand that Bible teaching promotes human flourishing. Some realise Jesus' example may help them achieve the same. Pupils know the importance of social action, and are involved in a variety of ways. Older pupils understand themselves as agents of change motivated by the vision. An example of this is seen in some meeting outside school on a Saturday to consider and write up an eco-strategy. Pupils know Jesus' concern for justice motivates them, and their charitable activities reinforce their understanding. They enthusiastically work together, and most are confidently articulate in speaking about the vision, values and spirituality. There is an understanding that biblical stories may help to resolve differences of opinion and show dignity and respect. The school's Christian approach emphasises the value of everyone before God. There is a clear understanding of the importance of Christian forgiveness derived from the vision. The impact of this is seen in the distinctive Christian ideals of love, fellowship, and trust modelled by



the whole school community.

Collective worship is an exemplary and outstanding feature of the school. It is thoughtfully planned and led by a pupil spiritual group in conjunction with staff. The planning focuses around the vision and expressing it in worship. It is clearly invitational and inclusive, and pupils are inspired to sing enthusiastically. Worship opens with a simple set of words and responses as candles are lit promoting understanding of Anglican tradition. These are placed on an altar with the appropriate coloured cloth for the church's year. Worship is deeply moving with a strong spiritual impact on all participants. Pupils are inspired to reflect in worship and beyond through a board in the corridor allowing them to share their reflections on post-it notes. This provides strong evidence of wider impact as they are clearly inspired to apply the vision and values in their lives. Courage is one example of this, with pupils reflecting on this in worship, and then looking for examples in the community. In turn this encourages their own courageous behaviour. The impact of worship can clearly be seen rippling through the whole school community and beyond. Prayer is important to pupils, and this is seen in the use of a prayer tree and box, and opportunities to pray throughout the day. Pupils identify moments which inspire action, particularly around matters of justice. Church visits promote understanding of the special occasions of the church year and the vicar's regular visits strengthen the church link. Pupils deeply understand the significance of Christian festivals and their impact. Parents also welcome the opportunity to join in worship, and say that their family readily speaks about the vision and values at home. There is a deep sense that the whole community is naturally drawn to reflect on the meaning and mystery of life.

RE is well organised and meets all the statutory requirements. Pupils say it helps them understand the vision and values. The RE lead and staff involve themselves in diocesan and Trust training which provides support and challenge. In turn this strengthens teaching and learning. RE has clear impact on pupils' lives and their personal spirituality. They readily speak about their enjoyment of RE and display strong reflective skills. They engage well with the philosophy of religion and display a high level of religious literacy. Pupils have confident knowledge of Christianity and the impact of faith on the world. They know about a range of world faiths, but a few are less confident with factual information. 'Knowledge organisers' assist them with this. They show an understanding of God as three in one and explain this using various symbols. Feedback on work is written and verbal and stimulates further progress. Classrooms provide a stimulating environment, promoting learning and a safe space for reflection. A developing link with a school in Zambia helps pupils understand Christianity as a living global faith.



Information			
School	Court-de-Wyck Church School, Claverham	Inspection date	13 March 2023
URN	142492	VC/VA/ Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Bath & Wells	Pupils on roll	135
MAT/Federation	Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Jo Baker-Brown		
Chair of Governors	Barbara Hook		
Inspector	Jeremy Hellier	No.	899