

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Puddletown St Mary's Church of England Middle School</b>	
Address	Puddletown, Dorchester, DT2 8SA
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	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
We aspire to nurture confident, spiritual and educated individuals, who will flourish and positively impact their communities, taking responsibility for God's creation. We do this through following the bible's teaching and working together to thrive as a community, celebrating our uniqueness in God's diverse world. The vision is summarised by 'Inspire today to shape tomorrow'.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distinctive Christian vision is at the heart of the work of the school. The associated values are lived out by the school community as an expression of the vision. However, the impact of the vision is not monitored and evaluated so that it can drive Church school improvement.</li> <li>• Inspired by the vision, character development and opportunities for the advocacy of positive social action are preparing pupils well, to live life to the full. There are a number of ways in which pupils effectively campaign for their community.</li> <li>• The care of pupils is central to the school's work. Each child is valued and their uniqueness celebrated, including the most vulnerable. As a result, pupils are flourishing in their learning and the community lives well together.</li> <li>• Collective worship is a feature of the life at the school although its impact is not monitored by leaders. Pupils are regularly involved in planning and leading the engaging and inspiring worship. However, a shared understanding of spiritual development has not been embedded across the curriculum.</li> <li>• The quality of religious education (RE) is good as a result of the high quality curriculum. However, the progress pupils are making through the curriculum is not monitored consistently.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop effective monitoring and evaluation of the Christian vision and the impact of collective worship in order to drive school improvement further.</li> <li>• Improve the quality of assessment and the tracking of pupil progress within RE so that non-specialist teachers are further supported in their teaching.</li> <li>• Agree a shared definition and strategy for the progression of spiritual development through the curriculum so that pupils can flourish spiritually.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

The Christian vision 'Inspire today to shape tomorrow', is at the heart of the ethos of Puddletown St Mary's Middle School. The transformation of thinking described in Romans 12:2 forms the basis of the vision. As a result, staff at the school have high aspirations for what pupils can achieve in life. Through the embedding of the vision in the life of the school, pupils have a good understanding of how choices made today can influence their future.

Associated values are an expression of the Christian vision and are embedded in the life of the school. They are woven through pastoral support and through the collective worship programme. Consequently, pupils think deeply about the relevance of concepts such as uniqueness, acceptance and kindness to their lives. The values are helping pupils to shape the citizens they are becoming. As a result of carefully designed opportunities to experience the diversity of life, pupils treat each other with dignity and respect. This is especially evident within the RE curriculum where pupils value highly interactive opportunities to explore the world around them. This is achieved through engaging visiting speakers from a range of worldviews and religions, alongside relevant educational visits. As a result, pupils flourish as they develop hope and aspiration for their futures.

Governors are passionate about the vision and its impact within the school. They are actively involved in the life of the school and the outworking of the vision and values, so preserving the school's Christian foundation. However, monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the vision by leaders is not well embedded and not effectively driving further Church school improvement.

Because of the school's desire to transform pupils' thinking to inspire their futures, the curriculum is designed so that pupils enjoy an engaging variety of lessons. This is helping them to learn. Driven by the vision to see pupils 'inspired today' staff are dedicated in their support. Routine intervention and small group sessions beyond the main curriculum, alongside homework club, provide effective opportunities for pupils to receive help with their learning. Within lessons, pupils are encouraged to seek support independently with the 'three before me' approach. Pupils value, and benefit from this support, which is often individualised. One pupil said 'teachers are never too busy to help me'. Support for the most vulnerable pupils is extensive and is enabling those with complex special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to grow in confidence. Pupils are provided with occasional opportunities to reflect spiritually through the values which are apparent throughout the curriculum. However, there is not an embedded definition or strategy for spiritual development across the school. Supported by the vision, the pastoral care of pupils is central to the school's approach towards behaviour management. Forgiveness and reconciliation are key to the approach taken with pupils as they reflect upon how their actions today can shape their futures. Additionally, the 'TLC' base provides effective emotional and wellbeing support for pupils. In expressing God's love through the vision, staff care deeply for the wellbeing of pupils at the school, something greatly appreciated by the parents spoken to. The uniqueness of each individual is carefully considered and celebrated. This is enabling pupils to feel proud of who they are and consequently they treat each other with dignity and respect.

The vision is driving pupils to think deeply about the future and care of their planet. As a result, pupils are becoming agents of change. They routinely advocate for social causes within school and beyond, such as diabetes support and a local bereavement charity. Alongside this, the eco club is championing the environmental care for God's creation through initiatives such as waste-free Wednesday. The school's work is further enhanced by the completion of the 'Young Leaders' award through which pupils experience high quality




opportunities to model Christian leadership within the community.

The school has developed an effective network of partnerships from which pupils and staff benefit. One example is the Dorset Area Schools' Programme which provides musical opportunities and creative writing challenges which inspire pupils. Partnerships with local churches enable pupils to enrich the lives of those in the community. Pupils participate in community church services such as the carol service, which staff and the wider community enjoy alongside supporting those who are homeless. School leaders have benefitted from the strong partnership with the diocese. It has provided support with Church school development alongside support to improve the quality of the RE curriculum. Alongside this, the trust provides strong wellbeing support for staff as well as good quality networking and training opportunities from which staff benefit. Equally, the approachability of leaders is enabling staff to feel valued in their roles. The sense of community and support for one other is strong and so staff are flourishing.

Opportunities for prayer and collective worship are a daily occurrence and integral to the life of the school for both pupils and staff. The pupil worship group is highly effective at planning and leading collective worship. They also lead the monthly Holy Communion service and design the annual reflection day that pupils and staff can choose to attend. Relevant topics are explored through Picture News, a form of collective worship, which is deepening pupils' theological understanding. The prayer tree allows pupils to reflect and request prayer at any time. Regular services at the local church are attended by all pupils and staff as well as members of the wider community. As a result, high quality invitational worship forms part of the daily rhythm of Church school life and enables pupils to grow spiritually. However, the school does not yet monitor the impact of collective worship.

Led by a leader with a passion for RE, and strong subject knowledge, the quality of RE is good. Following the diocesan agreed syllabus, the curriculum is effectively designed to teach pupils about Christianity as a living world faith. Pupils think critically about faith, alongside ethical and moral topics such as the holocaust. Recently leaders have developed a programme of enriching opportunities within RE and so pupils have a secure age-appropriate understanding of a range of world faiths. As a result, pupils enjoy RE and are broadening their depth of understanding of living in a multi-faith world. This is resulting in pupils deepening their religious literacy and growing as informed global citizens. The quality of routine assessment within RE is improving. However, not all teachers are using assessment to inform the next stages of learning consistently well. Equally, monitoring the quality of RE teaching by leaders is limited and the tracking of pupil progress is not routinely undertaken. As a result, the few non-specialist teachers are not always supported as well as they could be in their delivery of the RE curriculum.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	<p>The quality of teaching, led by the subject specialist, is good overall. The work produced by pupils, including the most vulnerable, is of a high standard across all year groups, including in classes taught by non-specialist teachers. Pupils achieve well and demonstrate their deepening understanding of RE through high quality written and verbal responses.</p>			
Information				
School	Puddletown St Mary's Church of England Middle School	Inspection date	16 May 2023	
URN	138189	VC/VA/Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Salisbury	Pupils on roll	473	
MAT/Federation	Wessex Multi Academy Trust			
Acting Headteacher	Mike Hilborne			
Chair of Governors	Martin Kimberley			
Inspector	Sadie Batstone	No.	2125	