

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Primary School, Croydon	
Address	Spring Park Road, Croydon, CR0 5EL
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
'That all may, Love, Learn, Flourish'. Anchored in God's love, we nurture our children to develop a love for learning whilst learning to love and respect others; celebrating the uniqueness that makes us all special. Every child is supported and valued, enabling them to grow in their faith and flourish.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. John's is a place of joy, driven by a coherent Christian vision which is deeply embedded and lived by all. • Collective worship is transformational. It gathers and inspires the community each day and has a powerful impact on staff and pupils. • Religious Education (RE) is engaging and challenging. Pupils enjoy grappling with 'big questions'. • Pupils are confident as courageous advocates, for those nearest to them and as 'global neighbours'. • The school's Christian vision has fostered positive relationships throughout the school. There is scope for further staff development as church school leaders through strong links in the wider community.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use partnerships beyond school to develop staff further as excellent school leaders.

Inspection findings

St. John's Church of England Primary School is a community in which all staff and students flourish abundantly as a direct result of the school's Christian vision. The school's ambition for all to 'love, learn, flourish' is clearly understood and reflects a school deeply rooted in Christ. Governors and school leaders ensure that the vision shapes and drives the school in every way. It serves as a powerful inspiration and guide to students and staff, all of whom talk about the impact it has on them. Recent building work to accommodate an increase in numbers reflects the school's Christian vision, with the imagery of Noah's Ark creating a powerful message of a community gathering and travelling together. The design has intentionally created spaces that support collaboration between classes. The displays and prayer stations contribute to the building being a physical expression of the Christian vision. The next phase of this process will be to develop how pupils use and respond to the spiritual garden.

A significant strength of St. John's is how staff and pupils live and learn together. Relationships in this school are strongly characterised by love and there is an exceptional sense of joy running through every aspect of school life. This is a diverse and close-knit community consciously united in the love of Christ. For staff, this is a collective endeavour and their motivation is driven by the school's Christian vision. Pupils talk confidently about the 'golden rule' of 'Love one another', and how this guides them on a daily basis. Pupils are proud to be courageous advocates. They have a strong understanding of justice and of supporting those in their school who need help. They know that service to their wider community is an important way of living out the school's Christian vision. There is a well-established loved tradition of service with Year 5 supporting a local home for the elderly. The school supports a charity which runs schools in India; there is a clearly articulated understanding of being 'Global Neighbours' and that this springs from the school's Christian vision. The 'Reading Mates' programme involving pupils in Reception and Year 6 is inspirational, showing how pupils are committed to helping each other. It gives a powerful learning experience and is an expression of the love and commitment abounding in this place. Staff have built strong relationships with parents, who appreciate the transformational impact of this school on their children's education. Pupils have high aspirations for themselves and for others. They talk confidently about their ambitions for the future. They are well-prepared for moving to secondary school because of their experience at St. John's; they appreciate the moral and spiritual guidance they are given, as well as their experience of an intellectually engaging curriculum. The School Council appreciate the responsibility they have been given and are deeply committed to serving others. Their thoughtful and imaginative contributions reflect a pupil community securely rooted in the school's vision and thriving as they help others to flourish.

There are excellent partnerships beyond St. John's which enrich the community and are clearly driven by the school's Christian vision. The headteacher has spent time working in a local Church of England primary school to give them support in leadership. The decision to take on this responsibility was driven by the school's Christian vision and its commitment to help all to flourish. Staff are consistent in wanting every single pupil to be of their best and to thrive at St. John's. The decision to help another school was a natural next step in wanting to support their neighbours. The school has strong links with the diocese and is involved in networks to support teaching and learning. These enrich the curriculum and support staff development, which is exceptional in its impact. Staff feel valued and encouraged in their own development; they understand how this is driven by the school's Christian vision for all to flourish. They link their own professional development to the school's Christian vision with




confidence. This vision helps staff to address challenges: leaders consistently go back to the roots of the school's vision to make strategic decisions.

Pupils are known and loved by their teachers at St. John's. As a result, they flourish abundantly and are supported to make excellent progress in a rich variety of ways. Great care is taken to understand the needs of individual pupils and to celebrate their achievements. Pupils with special educational needs are supported expertly by staff and encouraged by their classmates. Staff are nurtured with relevant training; new members of staff are welcomed and quickly establish themselves as strong classroom practitioners. There is an effective programme in place to support staff growing into leadership roles. There is capacity for developing this further with the partnerships in place with the diocese and with local schools. Pupils make excellent progress, with consistently high outcomes in national performance measures. There has been significant work on the curriculum, which has been designed to be engaging and challenging and with the school's Christian vision entirely at its heart. Pupils take great pride in their achievements and know that the school's Christian vision underpins their progress and their spiritual development.

Collective worship is deeply transformational at St. John's. It is a joyful and vital part of each day. Parents of all faith backgrounds know that their children look forward to collective worship eagerly. It is inspirational and uplifting, encouraging a sense of awe and wonder. Leaders plan the programme of collective worship carefully, using the strong relationship they have with the local church. Both the local vicar and the Chair of Governors lead worship regularly, modelling the school's Christian vision with confidence and conviction. Pupils of all faiths comment on the impact collective worship has on their day, how it helps them to reflect, to remember the school's 'golden rule' to love one another and to support others. The 'Spacemakers' programme gives everyone an opportunity to take time out of their day. It is valued by pupils and staff and has encouraged a culture of deep reflection and spiritual connection. Staff give pupils the language to talk about spirituality and to reflect on what it means to them.

Pupils have a very strong connection with their local church, with regular visits and services, including a very popular animal blessing service. Staff and pupils talk about 'their' church being 'like another classroom'. The vicar says that she, and others, are 'greeted in the love of Christ' when visiting St. John's. These strong relationships show the school's Christian vision in action in very natural and powerful ways. Governors and staff have developed a Christian vision for the school which is inspirational and which guides every aspect of school life. This is a community in which all do, indeed, love, learn and flourish, rooted in a confident and compassionate spirituality.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>Teaching in RE is excellent. Pupils are thoughtful and engaged in lessons, work in exercise books is of high quality and shows how highly RE is valued in the school. Staff use questioning particularly well, helping pupils to develop their ideas and to listen to each other. Lessons are lively and pupils relish the challenge of discussing 'big questions'. They learn to develop their own views and how to listen to others and disagree with respect. Pupils are given precise and helpful feedback on their work. There has been significant work on developing understanding of relevant vocabulary, ensuring depth in subject knowledge at both key stages. Pupils learn about other faiths as part of a wide-ranging and exciting curriculum.</p>			
Information				
School	St John's Church of England Primary School, Croydon	Inspection date	28 April 2023	
URN	101788	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Southwark	Pupils on roll	417	
Headteacher	Martina Martin			
Chair of Governors	John Phillipson			
Inspector	Elisabeth Stevenson	No.	942	