

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

<b>St Martin's Church of England Primary School, Dorking</b>	
Address	Ranmore Road, Dorking, RH14 1HW
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

School's vision
Inspiring children to be the best they can be in their learning and within their local and global communities, by valuing and nurturing individual talents, enabling every member of our school community to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to flourish and become the person they are called to be.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders have developed a clear and compelling Christian vision that is understood by all and supported by key values. However, although there is a clear biblical basis for the vision, this is not fully understood by everyone.</li> <li>• St Martin's is an inclusive community where difference is celebrated. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities flourish as their gifts and talents are nurtured.</li> <li>• The Christian values of the school support pupils and staff to live out the vision. Pupils try hard, aim high and achieve well as their character grows in the light of these values.</li> <li>• Prayer and personal reflection underpin the life of the school. They form the heart of collective worship and allow those of all faiths and none to pause and grow spiritually.</li> <li>• Pupils flourish in religious education (RE) as they develop enquiry skills and knowledge of chosen faiths and world views. However, there is limited knowledge of Christianity beyond the UK and there is some confusion between RE and collective worship.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop more fully a shared understanding of the biblical underpinning of the vision. This is in order to make the vision sustainable.</li> <li>• Continue to reinforce the clear difference between RE and collective worship so that there is clarity between times of worship and academic study.</li> <li>• Ensure that the RE curriculum is refined so that pupils gain a more secure understanding of Christianity as a global faith.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

Leaders have developed a clear and inclusive vision for the school that is known by all. Pupils and staff are passionate that they are all aiming to 'be the best they can be, the person they are called to be'. This vision drives all that the school does and the dynamic co-headteachers use it as the basis for all their decisions. Governors are highly committed to the school. They work effectively with senior leaders and develop good relationships with pupils and staff. They undertake a clear cycle of monitoring to assure themselves that the Church school ethos is maintained and developed alongside the curriculum. This means they can use the vision to set the strategic direction of the school and take challenging financial decisions. Leaders can articulate the roots of the vision in the calling of Christ to all. However, many pupils and staff find it hard to explain this.

The school uses well established values as a 'window' into the vision. These values run like a golden thread through the work of the school. They support pupils and staff to flourish as they seek to show them in their lives. Pupils behave well and are kind to each other. Leaders have developed and staff follow a consistent approach to behaviour that focuses on helping pupils to make the right choices in the light of the vision. There is a monthly focus on each value and on Bible stories that help to explain them. This means that pupils develop resilience to cope well when things are difficult as they try to be 'the person they are called to be'.

Leaders have developed a diverse and inclusive community in which the gifts and talents of all are cherished. Pupils benefit from a rich and well-planned curriculum, which has been developed collaboratively by staff. Leaders make sure that staff share subject knowledge regularly and have access to external training when they need it. This collegiate approach ensures that staff feel valued and can flourish professionally. The school has a track record of identifying people who might consider teaching roles and supporting them on their journey. Staff enjoy working at the school and know that their views are taken seriously and that leaders will always support them. Pupils and staff are proud to be part of a school where individuality is nurtured through a clear understanding that each person is endeavouring to be 'their own best'. This has led to the school making changes to their reporting systems so that pupils with an education health and care plan (EHC plan) have their small steps as the key focus of reports and parents evenings. This means that parents and pupils can celebrate success and plan for the next steps.

Prayer and reflection are fundamental to the way that staff and pupils live out the vision of the school. Pupils are rightly proud of the prayer tree in the entrance hall and the way that it shows this part of the life of the community. Pupils and staff value the opportunities for reflection in times of joy and sadness in regular prayer meetings. Pupils of all ages delight in bringing their prayers to this invitational event. The regular 'Pause days' expand these opportunities. Pupils and parents recall the profound impact of these days. Each classroom has a reflection and prayer area. These encourage pupils of all faiths and none to take time to focus on their spiritual growth. Pupils in reception delight in using their mirror to explain how reflection is not just about looking at your face, but 'looking into your heart'. It is through these areas that pupils seek the 'person they are called to be'.

Pupils delight in the wide range of extra-curricular activities and positions of responsibility that they are offered by the school. School councillors explain how their role helps the school to be the best place for all children. Eco warriors are passionate advocates for the planet and small steps for change that all pupils and their families can make from making bug hotels, to recycling batteries. A well-established system of 'table leaders' supports the development of the wider school community. Older pupils support those in reception as they eat their lunch, and this means that as they undertake this act of service friendships are made. These and

many other opportunities support pupils to be the 'best they can be'.

Pupils flourish in RE because the curriculum is carefully planned and sequenced. The expert knowledge of teachers is presented in a clear way, using appropriate teaching resources. Diocesan training supports staff in delivering interesting lessons and pupils enjoy their learning in RE because it is challenging. Pupils value the opportunity to think about big questions of life and consider the impact of faith on the lives of people around the world. Teachers create safe spaces in which pupils can reflect on what they believe and why and pupils love the opportunity to debate in a respectful way. However, pupils find it hard to explain or recall Christianity outside of the UK .

Pupils and staff thrive at St Martin's because of the opportunities to reflect upon the teachings of the Bible during collective worship. A full and active role is taken in the planning and delivery of collective worship by the pupil worship committee. Pupils involved take this role incredibly seriously and it enables them to grow in confidence. At present there is some lack of clarity between elements of the academic subject that is RE and collective worship. Collective worship is enriched by the diverse Christian traditions that are reflected in a well-planned cycle of support from churches within Dorking. The close relationship with St Martin's church is strong and developing as more class worships take place in the building. Collective worship inspires pupils to act at a range of levels. For example, in a desire for greater care of the environment pupils, were inspired to undertake small acts to encourage wildlife. These range from writing to the local council to suggest 'no mow May' on road edges and roundabouts, to litter picking.

Pupils and staff flourish at St Martin's because they are nurtured by a community which tries at all times to 'be the best they can be, the person they are called to be'.

Information			
School	St Martin's Church of England Primary School, Dorking	Inspection date	3 May 2023
URN	125141	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Guildford	Pupils on roll	375
Co-headteachers	Jane Gorecka & Mandy Parsonson		
Chair of Governors	Andrew Boagey		
Inspector	Elizabeth Jeanes	No.	981