

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bartley Church of England Junior School	
Address	Winsor Road, Bartley, Southampton, Hampshire, SO40 2HR
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
<p>'We are committed to providing excellence everyday so each child can achieve, be happy and be successful in everything they do. Our Christian values foster love for ourselves and each other.'</p> <p>'Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.' Proverbs 22:6</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Christian vision is known and lived by pupil and adults every day. Clear values shape the work of the school. As a result, pupils and adults flourish. However, the theological root of the vision is not clear to all. Informed by the Christian vision, collective worship is inclusive and strongly invitational. It is highly valued by all. There are limited opportunities for pupils and adults to experience the range of traditions of Anglican worship. The school lives out its vision through its effective pastoral care. This is a very inclusive school where all are treated with dignity and respect. Spirituality is understood across the school by pupils and adults. The school's definition of spirituality and its relationship to the Christian vision is not comprehensively understood by all. Pupils and adults live out the school's vision to love each other. Charitable work and social action are widespread reflecting the school's Christian vision. Religious education (RE) is well led and the curriculum well sequenced. It is rich and engaging. RE is a safe space where pupils of all faiths and backgrounds can discuss their viewpoints.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deepen the theological understanding of the Christian vision so that the vision is embedded and embodied by all actions in and across the life of the school. Develop the content of collective worship so that there is a deeper appreciation of the variety of liturgy and other traditions of the global Anglican Church. Embed the definition of spirituality so that a rich culture of deep reflection rooted in the Christian vision is comprehensively and coherently created.

Inspection findings

Bartley is a school that enables pupils and adults to flourish. It lives out its Christian vision to love others in all it does. This is seen most especially in the quality of relationships in the school community. The vision is lived out through clear values that are well known by all and underpinned by stories from the Bible. Pupils and adults give thoughtful examples of how the vision enables them to thrive in their day to day work. There is 'daily support for one another' rooted in the vision of the school. Leaders, including governors, monitor and evaluate the impact of their actions to ensure outcomes are in line with the vision. Work with partners such as the parish and the diocese contributes to ongoing Church school effectiveness. Staff and governors articulate the impact of the vision with passion. A deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the theological root of the school's Christian vision is articulated by some adults but this is not coherently expressed by all.

The school's curriculum is clearly shaped by the vision. While rooted in the school, the curriculum lifts horizons for pupils nationally and internationally. Staff and governors can explain how the vision impacts curriculum design giving it coherence. The curriculum is enacted by staff effectively. Pupils are curious and flourish academically across the curriculum. Pupils value learning and are eager to explain their progress. The curriculum meets the needs of pupils, including vulnerable pupils such as those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It equips them with the knowledge and skills to succeed now and in the future. Questioning and reflection are well used to help pupils develop a 'thoughtful awareness of the world around them'. As a result, the curriculum enables spiritual development for pupils. Leaders have developed a clear definition of spirituality. However, at present this is not widely understood by staff and pupils. This means that deeper spiritual development in the context of the Christian vision is not as readily expressed.

Being the 'best you can be' is at the centre of the school's culture. The school's vision to 'start children off on the way they should go' shapes the values driven approach to relationships and behaviour. Co-curricular enrichment is highly valued with offsite trips and residential especially impactful. Love of others is seen through hugely positive relationships and regular social action events typically led by pupils. One striking example was the advocacy for the Little Princess Trust which saw pupils raise awareness and donations for children enduring hair loss during cancer treatment. Pupils have regular responsibilities and leadership roles. This means pupils develop a clear understanding of what it means to be part of community. Forgiveness is understood with pupils and adults describing how resolutions are always found. Pupils and adults describe the school as being like a big family that is there for each other every day.

Mental health and wellbeing is vital to the school's understanding of community. Innovations such as 'Free February' where there are no adult meetings show how the Christian vision impacts decision making. Pupil voice is heard through a range of approaches including the school council and eco-warriors. Spiritual wellbeing is also supported effectively by special events. One example is the regular Prayer Day where the whole school community were able to experience four prayer stations. Both pupils and adults spoke movingly about the impact of the day. This exemplifies the very effective partnership with the parish and emphasises the place of the school in its local community.

The school is a nurturing place that lives out its Christian vision by celebrating difference and supporting one another. In a typical expression of this, one member of staff spoke of how they felt 'Bartley is like a big hug'. Rooted in the Christian vision, each school day brings dignity to all pupils and adults. Parents describe a school where 'every body matters'. Parents and the community are committed to the school. Carefully designed procedures such as the system for morning drop off means there is a clear sense of belonging, partnership and purpose from the start of every school day. This togetherness is also seen in how effectively new Year 3 pupils are welcomed from three feeder infant schools at the start of each school year. Adults who have recently joined the school also describe how welcome they have been made to feel 'part of the family'. Strong roots and a sense of place are modelled by the very settled staff team. Many governors have long standing association with the school. This means there is a consistency in all the school does to help every pupil and adult to flourish.

Collective worship is invitational in its atmosphere and the language used. This is because it is shaped by the school's vision. The weekly pattern of worship effectively uses reflection to connect concepts and create meaning for pupils and adults. Prayer has a central place in the life of the school. Key themes are used to shape daily acts of worship. This is characterised by a clear structure. The pattern of worship over a school year follows the liturgical year of the Church of England. Customs of the Anglican Church are shared with pupils and adults. The changing of the worship table symbolises this. At present the range of types of worship is more limited and therefore does not reflect the liturgical diversity and traditions of global Anglicanism. Worship is enriched by the partnership with the parish. Clergy visit regularly and seasonal festivals are celebrated. Reflecting of the biblical root of the Christian vision, this creates strong memories for pupils that stay with them beyond Bartley. Adults and pupils plan and deliver worship which reflects the daily importance of this time for the school family. The impact and effectiveness of worship is monitored by adults informally.

Pupils enjoy and value RE. They speak with enthusiasm about what they learn and can effectively recall prior learning. Pupils can speak about Christianity as a living world faith and draw contrast with other world faiths and views. RE lessons are described by pupils as a safe space where pupils can discuss views. RE is well led through careful curriculum oversight and training for teachers. Leaders ensure that the statement of entitlement is met. There is regular CPD provided by the RE leader and robust systems are in place to ensure teachers know what pupils learn and the standards attained. Staff work effectively together to secure consistency and quality of provision in each year group and across the school. As a result, RE has a high profile in the school.

Bartley's vision encompasses everything the school stands for, empowering everyone to succeed. This is making a powerful difference to the lives of all pupils and adults.

Information			
School	Bartley Church of England Junior School	Inspection date	19.5.23
URN	116338	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese/District	Winchester	Pupils on roll	358
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Karen Stonehouse		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Cathy Davies		
Inspector	Andy Higgs	No.	