

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bickleigh-on-Exe Church of England Primary School	
Address	Bell Meadow, Bickleigh, Tiverton, EX16 8RE
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>Challenge: Creating opportunities for pupils to push themselves and try new things.</p> <p>Explore: Encouraging and promoting curiosity.</p> <p>Flourish: Enabling all of our pupils to be the best they can be.</p> <p>Together: Focusing on the diversity, wellbeing and progress of every child where all members of our community are equal.</p> <p>'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision-driven leadership enables positive progress across the school. The robustness of leaders' monitoring of the effectiveness of this as a Church school is less developed. • The school's commitment to partnership working is key to implementing the Christian vision. • Religious education (RE) is highly effective in developing pupils' understanding of Christianity as a living world religion. This encourages pupils to be thinking and respectful members of society. • Collective worship is carefully designed to include and inspire all pupils. However, opportunities for pupils to design and lead their own worship are underdeveloped. • Meaningful moments of reflection and discussion within RE and collective worship enhance pupils' personal spirituality. However, planned opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually outside of classroom and worship times are less evident.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen monitoring systems so that all leaders are able to support continued school improvement as a Church school. • Enhance opportunities for a wider range of people, including pupils, to plan and deliver worship. This is to further support character development and personal spirituality. • Extend the range of opportunities for pupils and adults to engage in reflection and prayer during the day. This is to enrich the development of their own spirituality.

Inspection findings

At Bickleigh-on-Exe School the whole community lives out the school's distinctive Christian vision. 'Challenge, Explore, Flourish, Together' is based upon leaders' passion to enable pupils and adults to have 'life in all its fullness'. This vision underpins the actions of all leaders and is outworked through the school's associated values. These include respect, responsibility, honesty and reflectiveness. Pupils and staff use these in everyday behaviour and language. Parents report that children also use these values at home, indicating the positive impact they have on pupils' lives. Pupils are rewarded in weekly celebration worship for demonstrating good behaviours based on values.

Partnerships are central to the life and success of the school. The Ventrus Trust and local church both enjoy mutually beneficial working with the school. Participation in, and leadership of, some networking groups between schools within the Trust enhances curriculum and leadership support. The Trust and diocese actively support the school with relevant training which supports the professional development of staff. However, Trust and governor monitoring of Bickleigh-on-Exe as a Church school, is less developed. Clergy from the local church are very visible in the school and lead worship each week. Pupils visit the church for aspects of RE. For example, to learn about baptism, pupils participate in the baptism of a doll in the church font. The school holds services in the church for major Christian festivals and families are invited to attend.

This is a truly inclusive school. All pupils are given the opportunity to flourish through access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), or pupils identified as vulnerable, are all successfully supported. Needs are identified early and a range of appropriate and personalised interventions, including involvement with external agencies, are used. All are monitored and reviewed. In line with the school's Christian vision, good mental health of pupils and staff is important to leaders at Bickleigh. The curriculum and wide range of extra-curricular activities are designed to support pupil wellbeing. Breakfast and after school clubs support families with wrap around care and special events and professional contacts support staff wellbeing. All this demonstrates the school's distinctively Christian vision in action.

Naturally occurring kindness and care ensure relationships across the school positively enhance the flourishing of all. Following the school's Christian vision, staff support each other professionally and personally. Leaders are available for everyone, and pupils trust staff to always be there for them. Through living out their school vision and associated values, pupils' behaviour is good. They demonstrate tolerance and respect in classroom discussions. Pupils look after each other in the playground, as Jesus taught in the Bible story of the Good Samaritan. They are passionate about every individual's right to hold an opinion, even those different to their own. Pupils are happy and feel safe in school. Behaviour systems are based on forgiveness, fresh starts and restorative justice, supporting everyone to learn from mistakes and move forward.

RE is a strength of the school, successfully encouraging pupils to develop a sense of identity and understand their place in the world. The RE curriculum has been successfully transformed to be more about reflection and thinking than writing. This significantly impacts on pupils' engagement in this subject area. Pupils enjoy discussions such as the link between religion and science. This enhances their ability to critically reflect on religious and philosophical ideas. In a safe learning environment, pupils are challenged with big questions and respond with their own. RE lessons are well planned, active and enjoyed. For example, pupils design symbols to represent the Christian understanding of the Holy Trinity. Learning about Hinduism in RE is enhanced by practical yoga activities highlighting elements of the

spiritual journeys of many Hindus. RE successfully shows Christianity to be a living world faith alongside other world religions.

Collective worship is a central part of each day. Carefully planned, worship delivers the school's vision through a programme of themes based on its associated values and Christian festivals. To extend invitational opportunities for pupils to pray in worship, they have other occasions to do so throughout the day. These include moments to pray through song before lunch and at the end of school. This creates a sense of reflection and peace at key times of the day. There are reflection areas in classrooms, with boxes for both worries and hopes. However, resources to support pupils to reflect or pray outside lesson times in school, are limited, restricting personal spiritual development. The pupil ethos committee is consulted on the content of worship, theme, music, stories and prayer. Opportunities for pupils to appreciate a rich variety of approaches to worship are underdeveloped. Pupils are keen to design and deliver their own worship. Collective worship is enjoyed by pupils whatever their beliefs, inspiring them to engage in several social action projects. Pupils are passionate about looking after God's planet and protecting the environment. To do this, they organise awareness days to reduce plastic and energy waste. They grow flowers and support wildlife in the school's extensive grounds. To enhance spirituality, lessons are sometimes held outside. Meaningful opportunities for pupils to experience awe and wonder are provided when reading under the trees or sky gazing. Pupils support local social initiatives and national charities such as Children in Need. They also raise money to pay for the education of two children in a school in Uganda.

Parents enjoy belonging to this school family. Communication is good and the door is always open. Parents appreciate that the school's Christian vision supports their children to live happy and fulfilled lives through a holistic approach to education. Families are grateful for the extra care taken by the school during the pandemic. Staff regularly went the extra mile to keep in touch and support them and their children. Pupils, parents and staff are proud of their school. One parent rightly said, 'This is an amazing school, clearly practising its vision'. A pupil accurately added, 'everyone is welcome here'.

Information			
School	Bickleigh-on-Exe Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	26 June 2023
URN	137776	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Exeter	Pupils on roll	161
MAT/Federation	Ventrus		
Headteacher	Steven Bosley		
Chair of Governors	Helen Honeyball		
Inspector	Alison Appleyard	No.	877