

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church Church of England VA Primary School, Barnet	
Address	Byng Road, Barnet, EN5 4NS
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	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
Through God's love we learn, aspire and achieve; we flourish.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply pastoral approach to leading the school is done humbly, with love, and a servant heart. It is rooted in an unwavering Christian faith that inspires all to flourish. • Through being a member of Christ Church, all pupils and adults are changed for life, being enabled to become the best person God created them to be. However, leaders' structures and processes of evaluating this transformational impact, from the living out of the school's Christian vision, are not always as robust nor explicit as they could be. • Innovative practice in collective worship leads to this being the heartbeat of the school, consistently being an expression of the school's Christian vision and spiritually, affecting everyone for the better. • Religious education (RE) is given strong priority, builds up deep religious literacy and contributes positively and significantly to the beautiful character development of all pupils. • The school and parish church have both contributed significantly to the Christian distinctiveness of Christ Church. Currently, both are involved in a searching debate about relationships and sex education (RSE). This includes acknowledging how a range of views can co-exist alongside the school's adherence to legislation and the Church of England's guidance for schools. There is commitment and determination to work collaboratively in ensuring the best outcomes for each and every pupil.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek expert advice and wisdom, within a strengthening collaboration between school and the parish church, so that policy and professional practice in RSE enables everyone to live and learn well together. • Develop a more focused structure and process in school self-evaluation of Christian distinctiveness to articulate more explicitly the impact of the Christian vision.



Inspection findings

Christ Church School is a community filled full of love, gently, with consistent Christian rootedness, bringing about flourishing. A quiet, steadfast purpose of high-quality Church of England education is shared by all. This stems from the school's pervading Christian vision which is in everyone, apparent through deeds and actions. The vision, rooted in chosen biblical texts, is outworked through a set of Christian values. Parents comment how well pupils articulate the vision, including after leaving the school.

The school is led calmly and well, creating a happy place where all pupils and adults thrive. Vision-led aspiration towards high achievements focuses both on academic qualities and also developing the whole person. In this strong learning culture, every pupil is enabled to succeed, all being known for their needs and successes. The school keeps a watchful eye out for vulnerable pupils and families, responding appropriately. An example is sacrificial pastoral care shown to families at a time of crisis.

Leaders wisely draw upon current thinking in Church school education to match the school's context. The framing of all policies and development plans are clearly attributed to the vision. This ensures that it sets the unique tone as the school lives and journeys forward. Leadership is open and honest, enabling continual growth. Evaluation of Christian distinctiveness by leaders, including governors, takes place. However, the process and structure are not amply robust or explicit.

The profile of RE is high, its value recognised by everyone. The subject leader has refreshed and developed the subject adeptly from previous strong foundations. The relevance of religion on society and culture is continually explored. Creative teaching and recording are utilised in learning of Christianity and the other principal faiths. Visits and visitors of faith give learning authenticity. Pupils rightly feel that the subject provides a safe space in which they are comfortable to reflect on religious ideas and beliefs. The subject leader and the diocese have led continuing professional development. This has updated staff and led to greater confidence. The impact of RE contributes strongly to the vision-led flourishing of pupils. The school is meeting the expectations for RE in Church of England schools. There is a generally effective system in place for knowing how well pupils are learning. However, whilst standards are clearly high in RE, evaluation of the subject is not always wholly accurate. This can lead, in some instances, to unevidenced inflation of RE-specific achievement.

The wider curriculum has a biblical base underpinning learning across subjects. Through the curriculum, pupils learn to understand and celebrate a range of difference. The school's approach to RSE mirrors its firm commitment of encouraging pupils to value themselves and each other. This fosters respect and encourages dignity for all.

The school and parish church have both contributed significantly to the Christian distinctiveness of Christ Church over a number of years. Both are currently involved in a searching debate about RSE. This includes finding a way to live well together whilst holding and respecting different views. This is alongside the school's adherence to legislation and the Church of England's guidance for schools. Both school and parish church are equally resolved and determined to work collaboratively to ensure the best outcomes for each and every pupil in the school.

The school is a welcoming, highly inclusive place. All are accepted, valued and loved for their part in the school family. Difference is firmly embraced, seen as a blessing. Strong relationships between different year groups and inter-generational relationships lead to building a sense of family. Most relationships with key stakeholders are vision-led and indicative of the special Christian ethos of the school. The school's mantra is that you have



to be valued if you are going to flourish. It truly ensures that this happens.

A wide range of extra-curricular opportunities are offered to all pupils, such as farming the school chickens. Leadership opportunities for pupils abound, including leading clubs for other pupils. Pupils are listened to, and consequently, their ideas realised.


The school has a clearly defined understanding of spirituality and promotes opportunities inside the building and outside in the natural world. The willow dome is a prayer den, one of many places aiding reflection and prayer. Spiritual development also spontaneously occurs. People are encouraged to notice the spiritual in the everyday. This leads to the valuing of spirituality and affective impact on all.

Through the school's aspirational vision, all are given optimism from the Christian faith. Members of the school community comment how, in times of challenge, the school has been a source of comfort and hope to them. Recognising danger from traffic outside school, pupils successfully campaigned to have yellow lines installed. Pupils are taught to think globally and understand their responsibility as stewards of the world. Showing God's love, the school supports many charities; kindness indeed as an increasing number of families face financial struggles themselves. The school's Christian vision inspires the school community to be courageous advocates for change where injustice occurs. They are working towards achieving the nationally accredited Global Neighbours award.

The value of love referenced in the school's vision is a conduit through which the school community mainly lives well together. The honest practice of forgiveness and reconciliation is at the centre of the behaviour and other related policies. Pupils' and adults' wellbeing is cared for, promoting good mental health. People want to come to school and attendance is very high whilst there are no exclusions. Members of the school community inspire each other. Christ Church is a school community in which pupils and adults deeply value belonging to it, they feel blessed.

The school gives great value to collective worship. Through different themes, including drawing upon the Church of England's calendar of set Bible readings, worship unpacks the school's Christian vision. A common structure links the programme, ensuring consistency of approach and high quality. All teachers lead collective worship, offering their own perspectives on themes. Relevance is made through reflecting on what Christianity has to say to today's world. Whilst worship reflects the tradition of the parish church, other Christian styles are also experienced. Clergy and the wider ministry team, from the parish church, lead weekly worship. Leaders, including governors, have participated in diocesan training. This has brought clearer understanding of purpose behind the acts of worship for school, making them more invitational. Inclusive and innovative practice leads to all being involved and deeply affected, developing inherently spiritual growth. The worship committee of adults and pupils leads strategic direction of worship, including evaluating practice. Weekly worship in each class is led by different pairs of pupils, helped in planning and leading by a Year 6 worship leader. The end of the week 'songs of praise' brings the community together, here in prayer before going their separate ways. This movingly and profoundly conveys how collective worship is the heartbeat of the school. One of the school's favourite songs includes the words 'Jesus living in us can change the world'. Through the clear way that Jesus is present in the Church school education that Christ Church School gives, the world is being changed.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	<p>The school's RE curriculum draws upon the diocesan syllabus. From this and through consistently good and often very good teaching, as monitoring shows, pupils develop deep religious literacy. Using an enquiry approach, they explore through the lenses of human science, philosophy and, to some extent, theology. They show accurate knowledge and thoughtful understanding of religious concepts. The teaching approach progressively challenges them to engage critically with biblical text. Pupils enjoy RE and feel it deepens their understanding. All pupils make expected or better progress.</p>			
Information				
School	Christ Church Church of England VA Primary School, Barnet	Inspection date	19 May 2023	
URN	101316	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	London	Pupils on roll	224	
Headteacher	Elena Print			
Chair of Governors	Tamzin Arora			
Inspector	Shaun Burns	No.	808	