

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Pennington Church of England Junior School	
Address	Priestlands Road, Pennington, SO41 8HX
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
Through our core Christian values of Love, Respect, Perseverance and Courage, we nurture and inspire all children to follow Jesus' example and 'Be the Best they can Be'.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils and adults flourish at Pennington due to the centrality of Christian values in the journey of improvement. The theological roots of the vision do not reflect the unique context of the school or influence leaders' strategic planning. Following Jesus' example, pupils are inspired to be the best that they can be. The development of the whole child is paramount to the dedicated leaders who ensure the flourishing of pupils and adults. High quality pastoral care is at the heart of the school's success and significantly contributes to pupils' flourishing. However, opportunities for pupils to be advocates for change locally and globally are underdeveloped. Inspirational and inclusive collective worship expresses the vision well and is valued by the school community. Pupils have a good understanding of the Bible and teachings of Jesus because planning and evaluation of worship is effective. The leadership of religious education (RE) is a strength of the school. An imaginative curriculum enables pupils to flourish. Pupils develop a good knowledge and understanding of world religions but the curriculum for worldviews is underdeveloped.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the theological roots of the Christian vision, enabling it to shape strategic development. Inspired by the vision, empower pupils to become advocates for positive change within local and global communities. Enable pupils to acquire a greater perception of worldviews so that their knowledge and understanding are developed within RE lessons.

Inspection findings

Leaders have established a Christian vision and associated values which are well embedded across the life of the school. Pupils and adults flourish within an environment that is built on love, respect, perseverance and courage. Leaders are instrumental in transforming Pennington into the happy and safe learning environment it is. Whilst the Christian values are expressed with confidence across the school community, the theological roots of the vision are underdeveloped. Consequently, opportunities to be the strategic driving force, as opposed to the values, are limited. Leaders empower a staff team who strive for every pupil to be the best they can be. Governors know the school well, employing a robust monitoring system which leads to sustained improvement. They make decisions based on the ambition of the vision. For example, enabling financial support for all Year 6 pupils to attend a residential visit. Leaders build compelling relationships within the school community which contributes to pupils' flourishing. Good relationships are fostered with parents and carers. Staff engage in diocesan training to support worship and RE. Partnerships with the parish church are limited during the clergy vacancy. However, St Mark's Church is used for school services at key festivals. Strong collaborations exist with clergy from a local Anglican Mission in England (AMiE) church in the community. This thriving relationship offers mutually beneficial support for the school and contributes to the worshipping life at Pennington.

Bespoke learning experiences are in place that reflect the needs of pupils and inspire perseverance. The curriculum is shaped by Christian values. Pupils learn to be resilient and respectful of others. This enables them to thrive academically, spiritually, and morally. Staff and leaders apply the Christian vision wisely and sensitively. This ensures that the curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities meet the learning and spiritual needs of pupils. During the summer term, Friday after-school activities are well attended, even by other children from the local infant school. Staff give of their time freely to welcome pupils back to school to share in the fun and exciting opportunities. A shared understanding of spiritual development is well established. This ensures that every possibility is taken to enhance the spiritual growth of pupils and adults.

Pennington's vision effectively promotes social and cultural development. Through the establishment of forgiveness and reconciliation, good mental health and wellbeing are prioritised for pupils as well as adults. These are woven across policies and practices. Subsequently, people are enabled to live well together. Classrooms are calm and purposeful learning environments. Pupils behave well across the school. Attendance has increased because of the care and nurture offered. Those considered to be vulnerable are well supported to thrive at Pennington. Staff know the pupils 'inside out'. This significantly contributes to their flourishing. All are valued and their achievements are celebrated. The transition to and from the school is carefully managed, successfully ensuring that pupils settle well. Pennington is a haven of peace built around the example of Jesus.

The Christian vision supports the character and moral development of pupils. The staff gives them aspirations for themselves and hope for their community. When circumstances are difficult, Pennington is united by its values in support of one another. Pupils are enabled to participate in social action projects, raising awareness of good causes and charitable works. The curriculum has opportunities to ask big questions and think globally about life. Consequently, pupils develop an understanding of disadvantage, deprivation, and the exploitation of the natural world. For example, studying the impact of plastic pollution. However, opportunities for pupils to be active advocates for change locally and globally are limited.

The school's Christian vision and values create an environment that embraces difference.

Pupils, whatever their background or ability, can flourish because all are treated with dignity and respect.

The pastoral care they receive is exemplary and makes a significant contribution to their flourishing. Parents are rightly unanimous in their gratitude for all the school does for families. Pupils thrive because they are empowered to be themselves. A bespoke personal, social, and health education (PSHE) curriculum ensures that pupils live out Christian values. Leaders make astute decisions about the wider curriculum to ensure that experiences are rich for all and that no one is left out. Barriers to learning are tackled head-on by well-trained staff. Relationships and sex education (RSE) is planned to ensure pupils build healthy relationships.

Collective worship is joyous and a living expression of the vision. It is developed by leaders to be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring to all those present. Pupils make significant contributions to planning, leading, and evaluating it. The pattern of worship follows key Christian festivals and supports pupils' understanding of the Bible. Their spiritual development is enhanced as a result, alongside adults. Through regular, active participation, pupils develop a good understanding of the teachings of Jesus. Collective worship ensures that all make links between this example and their own lives. Partnerships with the local parish church are restricted during the clergy vacancy. Links with Christian denominations are strong and flourishing. This contributes positively to the life of the school community and helps introduce different styles of worship. Invitational prayer and reflection are an integral part of each day. Pupils sing a range of hymns and songs with eagerness.

Pupils are rightly proud of their RE work and are enthusiastic about the learning that takes place in lessons. Effective teaching ensures that the values are woven into the life of the school. Leaders utilise a wealth of training to create a bespoke curriculum that ensures the progression of knowledge and skills over time. Consequently, pupils flourish in RE because of the high-quality of provision that intrinsically reflects the Christian vision. Skilled leaders weave the values throughout the ambitious curriculum. This supports pupils' exploration of theology, philosophy, and the human social sciences. Theological concepts are unpacked and explored effectively. As a result, pupils' conversations about faith, and beliefs, are articulate. However, their knowledge and understanding of worldviews are limited. RE is a safe space in which pupils develop age-appropriate skills of inquiry, critical analysis, and interpretation. Diocesan training is used and regularly cascaded to teachers. An effective monitoring system is utilised by teachers to ensure pupils flourish in RE. Statutory obligations are well met.

Information			
School	Pennington Church of England Junior School	Inspection date	30 June 2023
URN	116307	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Portsmouth; Winchester	Pupils on roll	148
Headteacher	Kirstie Richards		
Chair of Governors	Karen Simpson and Tony Lowman		
Inspector	Toby Long	No.	896