

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

Whitewater Church of England Primary School	
Address	The Street, Rotherwick, Hook, RG27 9BG
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 and courage, we aim for our children to feel love for themselves, for others and the world around them; to be brave, knowing that mistakes are expected, respected and part of learning; to understand they have the power to make a positive contribution to God's world.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under new leadership, the school community has collaboratively agreed an effective and distinctly Christian vision. The vision has clear biblical underpinning and is widely understood. Leadership is enthusiastic and committed to ensuring the positive impact of the vision on the flourishing of pupils and adults.</li> <li>Pupils are encouraged to express themselves spiritually. However, the way opportunities for spiritual development are identified throughout the curriculum is less developed. The school lacks an agreed definition of spirituality.</li> <li>Collective worship is well-planned and organised. It expresses the vision and has a clear impact on pupils and adults. Pupils are keen to plan and lead collective worship more regularly.</li> <li>Religious education (RE) has very strong leadership and a positive impact on delivering the vision to pupils. As a result of this, pupils demonstrate secure knowledge and skills in RE.</li> <li>The vision motivates pupils to make a positive contribution to God's world. However, as these leadership opportunities are recently developed, change led by pupils is in its early stages.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the existing opportunities for promoting and expressing spirituality across the curriculum. This is to enable pupils to have opportunities to see how spirituality can pervade all areas of life.</li> <li>Develop greater pupil involvement in planning and leading collective worship to further strengthen engagement and enhance impact.</li> <li>Broaden pupils' first-hand knowledge of engagement with social action. This is to further extend pupils' understanding and knowledge of themselves as caring agents of change in God's world.</li> </ul>

## Inspection findings

Whitewater is a good school with many strengths. The highly committed leadership team, articulate the school's vision with passion and relevant illustration. The values within the vision, underpinned by biblical quotes, ensure the vision is rooted in biblical teaching. As a result of the vision, the pastoral care of staff and pupils is particularly good. This leads to strong relationships where pupils feel love and respect for themselves, for others and the world. Supportive relationships are a key feature. Everyone is encouraged to treat others with dignity and respect so that they flourish. The vision promotes courage, knowing that mistakes are expected, respected and part of learning. Pupils understand this as being in the 'learning pit' which is effective in developing a growth mindset. Consequently, the vision contributes towards the resilience and confidence of staff and pupils to flourish.

The newly formed leadership team's work consistently promotes the recently established and collaboratively written Christian vision. The executive headteacher provides the strategic lead across a supportive collaboration of four local schools. The executive head of school and the head of school inspire and motivate staff, fostering a positive school culture. The 'Whitewater Way' provides consistency around expectations which has raised standards. As a result, pupils thrive and are enabled to make a positive contribution to God's world. A parent commented, 'the transformation in the past 18 months has been incredible and senior leaders are constantly visible'. Parental and community support for the school is strong.

Leaders have worked hard to review and relaunch a more exciting and relevant curriculum across all subjects. Inspirational visitors motivate pupils to have the willpower to succeed. The broad curriculum provides many opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually. Pupils appreciate the importance of prayer and regularly write prayers. Pupils are taught to reflect using a 'pause for thought' technique. However, the use of reflection areas, both in classrooms and outdoors, is still in the early stages of development.

Collective worship is invitational, inspiring and inclusive, and pupils respond well to moments of reflection. Worship planning is linked to school values. 'Big questions' provide valued moments for pupils to ask questions and consider responses. Participation is enthusiastic with joyful singing and parents readily support school services in church. Key phrases of the vision are reinforced through acts of worship. Pupils readily relate the values discussed in worship to how to live well together as a community. Members of the community support worship through 'open the book'. This makes an active contribution towards pupils' knowledge of Bible stories. The vicar is very actively involved in the school, and pupils and staff are encouraged by her support and enthusiasm! Visits to the local church take place regularly and on special occasions of the year. This ensures pupils understand the significance of Christian festivals. The vicar has devised an interactive approach to Easter called 'walk through Easter' which embeds understanding. Pupils show enthusiasm for greater involvement in the planning and delivery of worship on a more regular basis.

The school has a close relationship with the diocese who provide much appreciated support and training. As a result, RE is very well-planned and delivered using various resources including the Understanding Christianity programme. The subject leader has worked closely with the diocesan advisor to incorporate this into the RE syllabus. Involvement in diocesan training supports good practice with assessment procedures and the effective tracking of individuals. Older pupils have a thoughtful understanding of Christianity as a living faith. They speak confidently about their learning and show good knowledge of world religions. Leaders ensure that there are opportunities to have meaningful engagement with followers from a variety of faiths. The diocese has provided training on vision, values and spirituality as well as RE. The impact of the diocese in enabling pupils and staff to thrive and move the school

forward is significant.

The personal, social, health and emotional (PSHE) curriculum is delivered using the creative initiative Heartsmart. This is building character, emotional health, resilience and good mental well-being in pupils. Leadership opportunities for pupils exist in their roles as school councillors, eco group and junior road safety officers. The impact of this is the sense of responsibility which pupils are beginning to show for improving their school. Pupils live out the vision, understanding that they have the power to make a positive contribution. The school community is generous in its support of charities. Less well developed are opportunities for pupils to take the lead on social action.

Staff enhance pupil understanding of the school's Christian vision through presenting wristbands to pupils who have lived out the values. Pupils aspire to receive the values award each term in recognition of consistently demonstrating the school values. Classrooms and communal areas have displays promoting the vision and values so that pupils relate this to their behaviour and relationships daily. Pupils articulate with confidence how living out the values of love, respect and courage relates to the vision. Older pupils relate this to the African concept of 'Ubuntu' which has been introduced to them by the local vicar. Pupils understand that this was a philosophy practised by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. Pupils relate this to treating one another fairly, with dignity and respect. Consequently, monitoring shows improvement in behaviour and engagement with learning.

This is a very inclusive and nurturing school. Pupils are successfully integrated from Ukraine with additional support including translations on teacher produced materials. The vision is lived through comprehensive care in supporting all pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). For example, the installation of a 'learning lodge' to meet the needs of pupils who need alternative provision which was unavailable elsewhere. Parents appreciate communications from the school and the approachability of staff. Pastoral care is a strong feature leading to a sense that everybody is deeply valued as God's children. The vision ensures that the mental health and wellbeing of the whole school community is prioritised. As a result, adults and pupils feel that every reasonable effort is made to meet their individual needs.

All are enabled to grow and flourish in line with the strong Christian vision. Governors understand the needs of the school because they monitor and evaluate the impact of the school vision thoroughly and effectively. Reports of governors' visits are considered at meetings, driving strategic future improvement. There is a beautiful image painted in the school of the previously endangered bird, the red kite. It is accompanied by the phrase 'don't just fly, soar high'. This represents Whitewater school which has been successfully relaunched and now thrives as an effective Church school.



Information			
School	Whitewater Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	26 June 2023
URN	116345	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Portsmouth; Winchester	Pupils on roll	108
Executive Headteacher	Glen Golding		
Chair of Governors	Dan Trill		
Inspector	Amanda Brockway	No.	2214