

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Paul's Church of England Primary, Addlestone	
Address	School Lane, Addlestone, KT15 1TD
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent

School's vision
<p>At St Paul's we will ignite a passion for life and learning in every member of our school community by providing the best possible education, where children and adults grow through our core values rooted in FAITH and will confidently succeed through the strength and love of God.</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 the heartbeat of this excellent Church school. It unites, inspires and guides every aspect of school life. • Curriculum provision and support for vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is an indisputable strength of the school. • Harmonious relationships permeate the school. This is clearly as a result of the well embedded Christian vision and associated values. • The worship and spiritual life of the school is exceptional. Refinement to the shared language of spirituality will further enhance pupils' and adults' spiritual flourishing. • Religious education (RE) is excellent. Pupils have a deep and well developed subject knowledge and are incredibly proud of their work. Committed leaders ensure RE teaching continually evolves.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharpen the shared understanding and language of spirituality so that spiritual growth continues to support pupils and adults flourishing. • Continue the journey of innovation in RE teaching through embedding the revised curriculum.

Inspection findings

Leaders and governors, known as the local committee, have a forensic understanding of their school. Through a deeply considered and exceptionally well-embedded Christian vision, a sense of inclusivity and love permeates. This is clearly seen in leaders drive to enrich the lives of everyone, enabling all to flourish within an aspirational learning community. Local committee members articulate with clarity how the vision shapes every aspect of school life. They offer rigorous challenge and support to school leaders, creating an ethos of continued improvement. This rigorous process also extends to the impact of the Christian vision. Leaders, local committee members and the Good Shepherd Trust are rightly proud of the school's remarkable vision driven development journey. Inspirational Christian leadership at all levels is resulting in a flourishing school, now at the heart of the community. Leaders keenly support other schools resulting in the vision enabling flourishing across the trust.

Leaders provide and implement a bold, ambitious and dynamic curriculum in response to the diverse needs of the school community. Key strands such as language development and encouraging aspiration, allow pupils to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Inclusion is at the heart of St Paul's. It is an indisputable strength of the school and keenly reflects the vision. Timely intervention from the dedicated and highly effective inclusion team ensures all barriers to learning are overcome. This includes small class teaching, emotional literacy support assistants (ELSA), counselling and an artist in residence. This multifaceted curriculum provision has a transformational impact on St Paul's pupils, ensuring flourishing in the widest sense.

Leaders have a deep and robust understanding of spirituality in the context of their community. Extremely effective opportunities are mapped out skilfully, enabling pupils to explore spiritual and ethical issues. For example, reflection weeks in school and church are cherished by all. Further spontaneous opportunities create rich spiritual experiences within a culture of deep reflection. Reflection books and areas in each class showcase this impressive work. This provision has a profound impact on pupils' mental health and spiritual growth. Refinement to the shared language of spirituality across the school will enhance this provision further.

Pupils are ambitious in their pursuit of challenging injustice and inequality. This is as a result of wise and skilfully planned opportunities in the curriculum and worship that allow the exploration of 'big questions'. Through the work of seven councils that form pupil parliament, for example eco, worship and global citizenship councils, they are empowered to be agents of change. This is through engagement in a commendable range of social action projects and charitable partnerships. For example, pupils support the local 'Loaves and Fishes' food project and challenge their MP on the dangers associated with poor parking around the school. The town mayor supports a community litter pick initiative following pupils' innovative courageous action. United by their passion for climate change, pupils' action led to eco-friendly lighting being installed across the school. Pupils are especially proud of their work to support a global toilet twinning project. This wealth of activity ensures they make positive, age-appropriate contributions to local, national, and international communities.

Watching over one another in love is the unforced, strikingly normal, spontaneous yet intentional culture of St Paul's. Relationships between all members of the community are exceptionally strong and supportive. Pupils' behaviour is impeccable. Wisely chosen Bible stories connected to the school's Christian values enable pupils to disagree peacefully. They talk with real maturity about how the vision and values develop their attitudes to forgiveness, respect, and reconciliation. The school community celebrates difference and diversity with pride. Parents delight in stating, 'all are unique, all are valued'. The Christian vision unites

the staff team. Morale is high because everyone feels respected and supported in their roles and as members of the school family. Cohesive relationships amongst staff exemplify the Christian vision. They are committed to their school and its community. Parents cite many examples of the life-changing and transformational impact this commitment realises. The wellbeing of all is a priority for leaders. Staff, pupils and families benefit enormously from two mental health practitioners and an NHS 'Mindworks' base.

Excellent collective worship is fundamental to the spiritual life of St Paul's. Pupils have a thorough, age-appropriate understanding of Christian theology and liturgy. They know and understand a variety of Anglican traditions. Pupils' have a deep and impressive knowledge of the Bible. This includes a profound understanding of the trinitarian nature of God. The whole school community deeply values the time to join together as a school family for prayer and reflection. Inclusiveness and a sense of joy characterise these occasions. The leadership of worship is exceptional. It is extremely well planned, engaging and invitational to all. Leaders' deeply theological practice and provision, driven by the Christian vision, empowers the school community. This is striking in pupils' and adults character development. Pupils' worship council, leaders and the local committee rigorously evaluate the impact of worship so that it conscientiously addresses emerging needs. For example, as a result of monitoring, class worship was reviewed to enable deeper and more intimate discussion and reflection. A strong and successful partnership within the parish enables purposeful, deep links between the school, church, and the local community. Pupils delight in the weekly visits from local clergy. These partnerships enrich the life of the school. Spiritual flourishing is enhanced greatly in worship. Pupils and adults share profound examples of how worship enhances their spiritual growth. Worship's transformational impact is seen throughout and beyond the school. For example, parents share moving examples of pupils developing their personal prayer lives.

RE is excellent. It is exceptionally well led. Skilled leaders are passionate about pupils' learning. This drives an ambitious and innovative curriculum that powerfully expresses the Christian vision. For example, strategies such as retrieval practice ensure teaching is highly effective. Pupils have a robust, age-appropriate understanding of Christianity as a living world faith. Engaging, thought provoking lessons and creative activities within RE enable pupils to develop a deep understanding of worldviews. The curriculum is wisely planned, sequential and has the highest priority across the school. Diligent use of embedded monitoring systems ensures the curriculum remains dynamic and responsive to pupils' needs. Excellent support is given for staff to build on their strong subject knowledge. This includes high quality training and engagement with the Trust and diocese. Well considered work to embed a new RE syllabus is ongoing. Pupils enjoy their work in RE and show impressive levels of insight when discussing challenging questions. Lessons provide a safe space for pupils to explore differences, ensuring they are tolerant and respectful. They discuss religious and spiritual viewpoints with confidence.

Information			
School	St Paul's Church of England Primary, Addlestone	Inspection date	13 July 2023
URN	140028	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Guildford	Pupils on roll	415
MAT/Federation	The Good Shepherd Trust (GST)		
Headteacher	Louise Kaye		
Chair of Governors	Andrew Harrow		
Inspector	Christian McGuinness	No.	2113