

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Churchfield Church School, Highbridge	
Address	Burnham Road, Highbridge, TA9 3JF
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>Learn to love, Love to learn.</p> <p>Equipping children with the emotional and academic skills and resources to help form their aspirations. Providing the support and nurture to set them on their way to achieving these. Shaping every child's learning journey at every stage.</p> <p>Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.</p> <p>Joshua 1:9</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply held Christian vision is lived out in the school. The vision underpins the actions of school leaders. Christian love is at the heart of all the school does. • This is a highly inclusive school of all pupils and families. In line with the vision, care abounds and adults are aspirational for all pupils to be the best that they can be. • Religious education (RE) is effective and reflects the school's Christian vision. It enables pupils to grow in their understanding of Christianity as a living world faith. • Collective worship is carefully designed to include all pupils. However, it is not offering sufficient opportunities for pupils to design and lead their own worship. • The school community supports national and international emergencies. However, pupil action in response to local need is under developed.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase opportunities for pupils to design, create and deliver their own collective worship to support character development and personal spirituality. • Support pupils to respond to the needs of the local community with social action projects in order to support character development and the breadth of their learning journey.



Inspection findings

At Churchfield Church School, the whole community lives out the school's distinctive Christian vision. This vision underpins the actions of all leaders. The interim leadership team led by an experienced and determined interim executive headteacher is driving a path of continual improvement. The school's vision and PRAISE values (perseverance, respect, acceptance and friendship, independence, selflessness, empathy and compassion) are known by everyone. These chosen values particularly support the aspirations of pupils to be 'strong and courageous' in overcoming social and academic barriers. They enable pupils to make positive behaviour and learning choices. Governors know the school and monitor its effectiveness as a church school through a comprehensive monitoring programme. Leaders are passionate about, and successful in enabling all pupils and adults to be the best they can be. Staff speak of belonging to a loving school family. They appreciate the support, both professional and personal, that they receive from leaders and each other.

To affect the school's vision to shape every child's learning journey, the school engages in strong partnerships. It works closely with the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust (BWMAT), diocese and local parish church. The vicar supports school life by leading worship for all pupils in the church each week and supporting the delivery of the RE curriculum. The BWMAT and diocese provide such things as leadership support and CPD. Churchfield school is also outward facing making a significant contribution to BWMAT schools through their expertise in early years foundation stage (EYFS).

This is a highly inclusive church school which welcomes all pupils and families into the extended school family. Staff engage with parents and pupils in a Christian, loving manner. All pupils, whatever their needs, are given a fresh start every day and support to address their needs. In line with the Christian vision, behaviour management is based upon respect and forgiveness which pupils and families recognise and appreciate. One parent said, 'Staff are patient. They persevere with children and never give up. They are good listeners.' Following their Christian vision, the school successfully nurtures pupils and their families. Breakfast and transport where needed, are provided to support pupils each morning and a café is run for the benefit of parents. New pupils are welcomed and immediately included into the school. Staff go the extra mile to enable pupils to flourish. They encourage pupil readiness to learn and support families in times of need with food parcels and school uniform. Parents feel included in the school and appreciate such thoughtful communication as the video version of the weekly school newsletter.

In accordance with the school's vision to shape every child's learning journey, leaders adopt aspirational strategies for improvement. Pupils' emotional wellbeing is a priority. Behaviour is successfully supported by the school's adoption of a 'Zones of Regulation' curriculum. This is successfully helping pupils to regulate their actions. Acknowledging that every child is created in the image of God, the SEND team deliver personalised interventions. An emotional literacy support assistant (ELSA) checks in on a number of pupils every morning to support the start to their learning day. The school's learning environment is calm and the curriculum engaging. The curriculum has been constructed to support pupil needs and there is a full and exciting extracurricular programme. Character development is enhanced by the 'Churchfield Challenge' which is tailored to suit the needs of individual pupils. It encourages the development of life skills such as resilience and selflessness. The school has extensive grounds and facilities include a vibrant forest school area. It enables all pupils to experience God's world first hand. Pupils experience awe and wonder moments in the sensory area, when lighting fires or playing in the mud. Ribbons representing pupil thoughts, feelings and prayers hang on the wish tree. Looking after God's world is important to the school

community and pupils volunteer to serve on the school's ECO Council as ECO warriors. Working together, families and members of the local community produce facilities for Forest School such as benches and flower beds. The forward-thinking inclusion of the nursery in all aspects of school life, curriculum and activities is improving pupil outcomes. The challenges of transition from nursery into the reception year are mostly removed. Consequently, the school's Christian loving approach to learning can start early in children's lives. Teachers agree that 'children have to learn to love themselves first.' Pupils know that they are cared for and can depend on adults. 'Teachers are always there for us.' Pupil voice is important in school and pupils are democratically elected to the School Parliament. Positions of head boy and girl encourage aspiration and leadership.

Collective worship is central to school life and is well planned. The vision is presented through the school's Christian values. Pupils value coming together for worship and enjoy the daily pause for reflection and prayer. Reflection areas in classrooms and corridors are available for personal use at other times. Worship is accessible to all and encourages pupils to reflect on Bible stories, Jesus and world issues considering how these affect them personally. A range of staff and guests deliver collective worship. However, pupils have not had opportunities to design and deliver their own collective worship. Pupils are inspired to respond to global and national emergencies. They have supported children in Ukraine and donate to charities such as Red Nose Day. However, there is scope to further encourage their responses to local needs. A weekly celebration worship rewards pupils for their achievements which includes behaviour in response to the school's vision and values.

RE supports pupils to flourish through the provision of high-quality religious education. It enables pupils to see Christianity as a living world faith alongside other world religions. The curriculum is well-constructed and encourages pupils to consider big questions and their place in the world. Pupils of all faiths and none discuss their thoughts in a safe environment of respect and enjoy their learning.

School leaders effectively enable pupils and adults to flourish through the daily out-working of their deeply held Christian vision.

Information			
School	Churchfield Church School, Highbridge	Inspection date	22 March 2023
URN	139278	VC/VA/ Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Bath & Wells	Pupils on roll	510
MAT/Federation	Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust		
Interim Executive Headteacher	Clare Greene		
Chair of Governors	Lauren Chance		
Inspector	Alison Appleyard	No.	877