



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Shaftesbury Church of England Primary School	
Address	Wincombe Lane, Shaftesbury, SP7 8PZ

School vision

Ready, Safe, Loved and Inspired. Our mission is rooted in the letter to the Hebrews 10:24-25 'Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds'. We show courage in supporting each other by practising koinonia and respect. Friendships are valued. Learning underpins the creation and development of the people we are. As we live out our values, we aim to ensure that all our learning community feel safe, loved and INSPIREd so they are ready for their next steps.

School strengths

- Pupils and adults are 'spurred on' toward love and good deeds because of a clear understanding of the vision that underpins all elements of the life of the school.
- Leaders know their community well. As a result, they have crafted a curriculum that weaves academic and spiritual flourishing through every subject.
- Religious education (RE) is well planned, resourced and taught so that pupils build a secure knowledge of a range of faiths and world views.
- Relationships are strong and life giving. They build the aspiration of pupils through a culture of friendship and respect.
- Collective worship makes innovative use of computer technology and is collaboratively designed. It is central to the life of the school and encourages spiritual growth in pupils and staff.

Areas for development

- Develop stronger links between the trustees of the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST) and the local governing body, so that the local governing body are more fully supported in their Christian vision led decision making.
- Ensure that pupils have a secure understanding of Christian worship and practices worldwide so that that they build a more secure understanding of Christianity as a global faith.

Inspection findings

Leaders and staff in the school know their community well. They have used this knowledge to develop a vision that speaks clearly to the challenges and joys pupils and staff face. Staff and pupils know and explain the Biblical basis of the vision. It is because of this that they are looking for ways to 'spur each other on toward love and good deeds'. From the playground into the classroom and beyond staff and pupils are INSPIREd (the acronym used to recall the fruits of the values) by selected Christian values which help to unpack the vision. These root the school in the teachings of the Bible and the community that they serve.

The school is part of the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST). This supports the individuality of



each school and so allows Shaftesbury Church of England Primary to flourish in its own community. The vision of the Trust has a clear focus on developing aspiration and this enhances the work of the school. Staff from the Trust ensure that the vision of the school is having a positive impact on the flourishing of all through careful monitoring and evaluation. Links between the local governing body and the trustees are limited as the Trust is undergoing a period of significant change. This means that the Christian vision based decision making of the local governing body has not benefitted as much as it could do from the guidance of trustees.

Relationships are strong within the school as people seek to 'spur each other in love'. To be 'ready' each pupil is greeted by their teacher or known adult every day. At the end of each day pupils are thanked for their work. This culture is just as strong between staff. They are actively encouraged by leaders to model the values of koinonia and friendship in their everyday life in school. It is through this that the vision of the school is lived out. No one is too busy to look up and pass a smile, open doors for each other or share a supportive word. Parents and pupils are rightly proud of the way this builds community and encourages honest and fruitful collaboration. This extends from the Larder scheme to honest and open conversations about the challenges faced by pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). As one parent commented 'you can come to this school as the people you are, and they want to know you. They listen'. When things go wrong staff work with pupils and families to seek reconciliation and maintain respectful relationships. Leaders know that the challenges of COVID19 have led to difficulties for many around mental health and wellbeing. They have used resources to train staff to support those in particular need. As a result, analysis shows that levels of absence are decreasing. Strong partnerships between the local church and the school are mutually beneficial. The 'Lighthouse Club' after school each week and the recent 'Dream Scheme' holiday club support the development of strong relationships. Each year leaders in school make sure that no one in the school community is left without a Christmas present as they deliver gifts to the doors of those most in need. This is done sensitively and supports the building of community in which all can flourish and be INSPIRED.

Pupils and adults are spurred on to 'good deeds' through collective worship which forms the centre of the life of the school. This enhances the worship and spiritual flourishing of all. The carefully constructed and implemented collective worship plan ensures that those of all faiths and none can come together to reflect, celebrate and look to what they can do in the world. Teachers are well trained to lead worship in their classrooms. This allows pupils to think more deeply about the theme introduced by leaders at the start of the week. Worship is invitational and 'worship ambassadors' take an active role in increasing pupil participation. Year 6 pupils design, lead and record worship that is then shown in each classroom. The use of this and Quick Response (QR) technology for sharing earlier acts of worship is innovative. It inspires rich responses from pupils that enables them to grow their understanding of the Christian faith. The ever popular weekly 'Open the Book' sessions inspire pupils to think about stories in the Bible and how they relate to the theme. As a result of inspiration from collective worship that comes from the clear vision, pupils learn about key aspects of justice and take responsibility. Pupils become agents of change as they learn about issues in their local, national and international community. For example, pupils raised awareness of and fundraised for a local bereavement charity. Pupils have also worked together to raise issues of concern with their local MP. This desire to effect change extends to staff. A teacher has been 'spurred on' to develop a woodland around the school to provide more habitat for nature. Prayer is a natural part of the day and the prayers of thanks before lunch help pupils to focus on the gifts they have and the way they can be used.

In order to inspire pupils, leaders have developed a curriculum built around a clear understanding of flourishing through living out the vision of the school. Leaders and governors are ambitious for every pupil in the school, particularly those who are most vulnerable and/ or disadvantaged. Leaders have recognized that many pupils need to be inspired to aim high and because of this the curriculum includes moments for 'wow' and chances to reflect spiritually. The high quality continuing professional development (CPD) offered by the Trust ensures that staff have the skills they need to put these curriculum plans into action. Leaders in the school work collaboratively

within the structures of the SAST, the wider Diocese of Salisbury and Church of England Education Office to share good practice they have developed.

RE is well planned and taught in the school because the school and the wider SAST networks ensure that high quality CPD is accessed by all teachers. It meets the expectations of RE in a Church school and forms a core part of the curriculum. Lessons pose questions about life and the world that pupils are keen to consider. As a result of the curriculum and teaching pupils enjoy RE. They know that it is as safe space in which they can discuss their ideas and use their increasing knowledge of the Bible and key vocabulary. The rich use of technology supports the wider understanding of faiths and worldviews. However, at present pupils find it hard to recall learning about Christianity as a global faith.

Pupils and adults flourish together at Shaftesbury Church of England Primary School because they 'spur each other toward love and good deeds' in the community they have built together.

The inspection findings indicate that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling people to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	22 September 2023	URN	141810
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	356
Diocese	Salisbury		
MAT/Federation	Sherborne Area Schools' Trust		
Headteacher	Paul Lavis		
Chair	David Middleton		
Inspector	Elizabeth Jeanes	No.	981