



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

St Stephen's Church of England Primary School, Twickenham	
Address	Winchester Road, Twickenham, TW1 1LF
School vision	
<p>At St Stephen's, we build each other up in love and learning, embracing our strengths and developing a passion for lifelong learning. We create opportunities for children to know how to stay safe and see themselves as unique, courageous and resilient global citizens, to be upstanders for fairness and equity and against discrimination and injustice.</p> <p>'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.'</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 5:11</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being part of St Stephen's caring and loving school community is transformational. The lives of pupils and adults are enriched because of leaders' unswerving determination to 'build each other up in love and learning'. Every child's talent is discovered and fostered through the many rich opportunities provided by the school.</li> <li>• The school's vision is lived out practically through its associated values and is reinforced through inspirational collective worship. This is enriched by the strong partnership with the local church. Pupils are respectful and deeply reflective.</li> <li>• The global citizenship programme makes an important contribution to spiritual growth and a respect for diversity. Pupils challenge a wide range of social injustices. They articulate their responsibility for being agents of change in a compassionate manner.</li> <li>• Pastoral care and support for wellbeing is exceptionally good. This is an outworking of the nurturing vision because all ages build each other up with love.</li> <li>• Due to highly effective subject leadership, pupils excel in religious education (RE).</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders to sharpen the focus of monitoring by clearly referring to the explicitly Christian vision. This is to show how the vision drives all areas of school life, thus enabling a coherent approach to Church school improvement.</li> <li>• Ensure all staff are trained to effectively utilise the newly adopted assessment system in RE. This is in order to maintain the already high standards in the subject.</li> <li>• Increase opportunities for pupils of all ages to independently plan, lead and evaluate acts of collective worship and so strengthen their spiritual development.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	

The vision that everyone should flourish and fulfil their potential is deeply embedded in St Stephen's culture. Inspired by the words of St Paul, leaders are passionate that everyone at the school 'builds each other up in love and learning'. This can be seen in the way decisions are made, such as the provision of free music tuition to the benefit of all. An impressive school orchestra exists because of this. Specialist teachers in foreign languages, music, art, PE and computing are employed. This ensures that pupils have the very best opportunities to promote their learning. Staff also benefit from leaders' prudent decisions in terms of training. For instance, a very successful coaching strategy has been implemented, allowing all to grow professionally. The vision permeates the daily life of the school and is expressed through its Christian values. These include respect, peace, friendship, kindness and forgiveness. These can be seen in action when pupils help each other or listen to different viewpoints respectfully. They show maturity in articulating the importance of forgiveness when they have disagreements. Monitoring by leaders is effective overall. However, there is a lack of coherence in referencing the explicit Christian vision. This inhibits the focus of self-evaluation and current thinking in Church school education. There is a very strong sense of community, driven by the values linked to the vision. Parents express correctly how the school goes above and beyond to make a difference.

Rich learning experiences offer many opportunities to foster spiritual development. This is enhanced by effective reflection areas in every classroom. There is a strong emphasis on global citizenship. This enables pupils to understand their place in the world and how they can change things for the better. They are passionate advocates of fairness, equality and the celebration of difference, embodying the vision. Visitors, such as Stuart Lawrence, ensure pupils have a clear idea of what constitutes racism and prejudicial behaviour. Anti-prejudice week is also powerful in enabling them to learn how to recognise discrimination. As a result, pupils are proud to be 'upstanders' and offer examples of how they oppose bias. This is a direct outworking of the vision to strive for fairness and equality. A wide range of extra-curricular clubs including art, drama and sport, allow all to develop in love and learning. Pupils value these opportunities and enjoy all the school has to offer.

Early interventions ensure that pupils who require extra support receive help quickly so they do not fall behind. As a result, pupils of all backgrounds and abilities flourish in this warm, loving environment. Beneficial partnerships with other Church schools in the diocese enable shared staff development and training. St Stephen's looks beyond its community to build up and support others so that pupils know the importance of social action. Examples include assisting at a local nursing home for the elderly by helping in the garden. Contributions are made to the local food bank and a charity in India is supported with enthusiasm. Pupils show an interest in the world they are inheriting. For example, they wrote to the prime minister to highlight their concern about global warming.

Collective worship is an important and valued part of St Stephen's day. It occurs daily, ably supported by clergy and members of the church team. Pupils of different faiths or none, engage in personal reflection. Worship is therefore invitational and inclusive. Elements of music, singing, story, and drama are utilised by leaders. This supports pupils' understanding and appreciation of different styles of Christian worship. A wide range of opportunities are provided that enhance pupils' and adults' spiritual lives. For example, the rich and long-standing musical tradition is highly valued by everyone. Pupils know an impressive number of Bible stories from daily acts of worship and many use these to inform the choices that they make in life. However, opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship are limited.

Leaders demonstrate a high commitment to the health and wellbeing of everyone at the school. This has a significant impact on all. Using a wealth of support mechanisms, including a wide range of outside agencies, pupils and adults thrive. By using techniques such as 'zones of regulation' and 'worry boxes', pupils learn to develop coping strategies and resilience. They are therefore able to

manage their feelings in order to experience calm and happiness. Similarly, self-esteem groups support pupils in order to celebrate their own uniqueness and grow in confidence. Adults are well supported in their wellbeing and enjoy being part of a loving team where leaders sustain them. Every member of staff is valued equally, whatever their role. Training supports the inclusive vision to build each other up and everyone has access to up-to-date professional development. Parents welcome the many workshops that help them to encourage and support their children.

RE has a high status at St Stephen's and the knowledgeable leaders actively engage in diocesan training. This means that new teachers are supported well. The syllabus ensures that pupils have broad learning experiences rooted in theology. As a consequence of this carefully planned, balanced and sequential curriculum, teaching and learning in RE are good. This is confirmed by effective monitoring of the subject. Leaders are at an early stage of implementing an updated version of assessment. There are opportunities to reflect on the bigger questions and think about life. These enhance pupils' enjoyment and knowledge. Staff value the clergy's help in planning and presenting special RE days. These give opportunities to ask challenging questions that help them make sense of what they are being taught.

'Build each other up' is a powerful message embedded in a school community that is united in helping everyone to flourish.

The inspection findings indicate that St Stephen's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	19 October 2023	URN	102915
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	414
Diocese	London		
MAT/Federation			
headteacher	Liz Bachour		
Chair	Alice Bishop		
Inspector	Jenny Earp	No.	288