



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Alverstoke Church of England VA Junior School	
Address	The Avenue, Alverstoke, Gosport, PO12 2JS
School vision	
<p>Through our core Christian values of love, courage and respect, we nurture, encourage and challenge every child to be ambitious in their learning, courageous in their actions and respectful to themselves, others and the world around them.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is clearly articulated by all and is expressed through the core values of love, courage and respect. These underpin a creative and diverse curriculum. • Mental health and wellbeing are prioritised because all are nurtured within an inclusive school community. Vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils are supported well, enabling them to flourish. • The Christian vision is expressed through high quality, inclusive and engaging collective worship. Pupils and adults are able to experience moments of spiritual prayer or reflection. • Inspired by the vision, leaders create a culture of justice and equity. Pupils behave well , serving one another through their various leadership roles. All are encouraged to be agents of change. • Strong and skilled leadership of religious education (RE) means there is a well sequenced, creative and balanced curriculum. Pupils are challenged to question and debate, applying their understanding of a range of world religions or worldviews. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrich the RE curriculum further for children to engage with representatives from a range of religious and worldviews so that there are more opportunities to learn about them . • Deepen pupils' spiritual development so that they are enabled to make a response to the closeness of God in the natural world. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The established Christian vision of Alverstoke Junior School is confidently articulated by adults and pupils alike. The vision is expressed through the image of a tree. This powerful and tangible illustration provides all with a consistent language to describe flourishing. For example, roots are anchored in the Bible, while children grow as leaves nurtured by adults as branches. All leaders effectively reinforce high expectations while ensuring that pupils are loved in a nurturing and stimulating environment. Pupils are proud to attend the school, and as a result, attendance is above the national average. They clearly articulate the vision through the core values of love, courage, and respect. There is a strong sense of an aspirational community committed to supporting one another to flourish.</p>	



The Christian vision is carefully woven through a broad and ambitious curriculum. Pupils are challenged to consider big questions such as, 'Should we challenge or celebrate diversity?' Respectful debate has an important place, with philosophy for children being recognised by a national award. Central to the dynamic curriculum are the termly 'EPIC skills' (evaluation, perseverance, independence, creativity, etc.) These create a coherent framework for pupils' learning within all subjects, including RE. Leaders ensure that parents are informed so that they can effectively support their children to flourish academically. The dedicated teaching team provides engaging and inclusive experiences for pupils so that learning is enjoyable and memorable. For example, in Year 3, pupils delight in dressing up to act out the nativity story in the spiritual garden. The provision for pupils who have special educational needs or disabilities is expertly delivered and nurturing. Individual pupils have their learning supported by skilled learning assistants. This enables them to be fully included and to make progress. It is clear that all pupils are highly valued within this school. Senior leaders monitor rigorously and are committed to providing all staff with high-quality training so that the curriculum is fair and accessible for all.

Spirituality is carefully planned so that pupils speak a shared language to describe their experiences within the curriculum. The spiritual garden presents a much-loved area for pupils. At the moment, teachers direct the use of this space, so pupils do not have free access to explore time to develop an awareness of themselves or the world in a spiritual sense. Reflection areas within classrooms expertly present creative ways to develop pupils' understanding of prayer and reflection during class worship. Class prayer books demonstrate that pupils know the language of prayer and value this as a way of connecting with God. 'Coloured please, sorry, and thank you pebbles' have been reintroduced. These provide effective ways to pray for those who wish to use them in the classroom, deepening the understanding of prayer.

Collective worship enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. It is planned thoughtfully across the week so that pupils experience inclusive and engaging worship. Inspired by the Holy Trinity, pupils are reminded of the school vision, in that God gives love, Jesus teaches courage and the Holy Spirit underpins respect. A variety of adults lead the inspiring worship, including members of the church community who share 'Open the Book'. This enables pupils to extend their knowledge of Bible stories and develop their spirituality. Pupil leadership of worship is highly valued, along with the contribution of their personal prayers. Songs are joyfully expressed with actions, making them inclusive for those with special educational needs and or disabilities. The weekly worship theme is shared with families through the newsletter. As a result, the impact of worship is extended to families.

The vision is lived out through caring relationships. Pupils behave well because they are mindful of the school values. They readily serve each other through their various leadership roles. Most notably, the 'young governors' effectively contribute to school improvement. They enthusiastically work alongside senior leaders, representing the interests of their peers. The clear values of the school ensure that all remain responsible for their own and others' wellbeing. For example, the staff survey demonstrates that all feel well supported and are able to talk about their mental health. Governors effectively exercise their responsibility through their regular wellbeing checks. Leaders ensure that the vision extends beyond the school to the wider community. Teachers provide meaningful opportunities for students to learn about diversity. Engaging with 'Christian Aid's Global Neighbours' project has enriched pupils' understanding of their Christian responsibility. As a result, they have contributed to a new water tank for their partner Kitoo school in Kenya.

RE is led extremely well because it is skillfully planned and regularly evaluated. The rich and balanced curriculum offers pupil's a progressive journey through the 'Understanding Christianity' resource and the local syllabus. Teachers are provided with skilled training from diocesan advisors so their subject knowledge is good. As a result, pupils can articulate what they are learning using



appropriate vocabulary. Scripture is well chosen so that pupils can exercise their enquiry skills and debate views. For example, they compare two Gospel writer’s accounts of Jesus' birth, considering the intended audience. Pupils are engaged because RE planning creatively includes drama, cooking and art. This means pupils enjoy their learning and it is memorable. They do not yet have enough opportunities to visit a range of religious communities to deepen their understanding. The school utilises the local syllabus to aid assessment and seeks diocesan advice to validate these. As a result, pupils make good progress in their RE learning. Governors diligently monitor RE working closely with the subject leader to evaluate the impact on pupils and deepen church school links. Consequently, RE is a considerable strength of Alverstoke and linked closely to its aspirational Christian vision.

The inspection findings indicate that Alverstoke Church of England Junior School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	17 November 2023	URN	116392
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	256
Diocese	Portsmouth;Winchester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Clare Slowther		
Chair	Gareth Davis		
Inspector	Helen Crolla	No.	918