THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Becket Keys Church of England Free School	
Address	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9DA

School vision

"bear fruit - fruit that will last" (John 15v16)

School strengths

- The school's Christian vision is deeply embedded. This is evident in all areas of school life.
- Character education and the development of the whole child is central to the work of the school. The values of respect, responsibility and forgiveness permeate all aspects of the school community.
- The provision of religious education (RE) is effective. Staff subject knowledge and expertise is secure. This is due to being well-resourced and as a result of having access to relevant training. This positively impacts pupil engagement and understanding.
- Tutorial worship time is a highly valued part of collective worship. Pupils see it as a special time that supports their spiritual development.
- The school's Christian vision has created a culture of justice and responsibility. Pupils are encouraged to be courageous advocates in their roles in the school, in the community and further afield.

Areas for development

- Develop pupils' involvement and leadership in collective worship so that they have further opportunities to plan and lead it. This is so the spirituality of others is enhanced.
- Consider ways in which Christianity can be understood and celebrated as a global faith.

Inspection findings

The school's vision 'to bear fruit' is understood and expressed throughout the school community. Leaders have a clear sense of the school's identity and have sought to develop it as the school has grown. It is central to the commitment of school in supporting the academic, spiritual and character development of pupils. The vision drives the school's actions creating a culture where all are encouraged to thrive. The motto of 'Faith in learning', steers pupil experience. Leaders are passionate that Becket Keys is a school where pupils can be supported and encouraged in their faith, belief or worldview. The impact of this is an environment where pupils feel valued and where they can develop valuable skills for life. Governors through their monitoring are fully committed and actively engaged in school improvement. Becket Keys works closely in collaboration with the Russell

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Education Trust. This is a robust partnership. The trust works purposefully to enable the school to live out its foundation as a Church of England school.

The broad and balanced curriculum reflects the school's values and enriches pupil experience. The values are embedded in the content and approach of each department. Subject leaders have a clear understanding of how their subject supports pupils, enabling them to excel, flourish and bear fruit. This includes spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) learning opportunities that form part of a developed curriculum. There is a breadth to these learning experiences that reinforce the vision and values. These include stewardship, care for the environment and making sustainable choices. Pupils are aspirational about their future as a result.

Collective worship has a positive impact on the spiritual experiences of the pupils at Becket Keys. Leaders have been mindful so that it is delivered effectively. They have considered the space available and made choices so that collective worship is delivered in various ways. Tutorial group collective worship time includes individual and small group activities for pupils to engage in. It offers space for calm spiritual reflection, silence and prayer. Worship is invitational and inclusive. Pupil experience of collective worship is enriched by the smaller tutorial group worship opportunities. Pupils see it as meaningful and valuable in supporting their personal spiritual development. Year group collective worship in the school hall, although more formal, offers differing ways to worship as a community. Pupils are enthusiastic in their participation, in prayer and in singing. While individual pupils in collective worship have the opportunity to read a Bible passage or read a prayer, their involvement does not often shape the content of it, nor do they regularly plan or lead it. This limits pupil experience and understanding of worship. Church services further enrich the spiritual life of the school. Led by the local clergy they are a regular part of the pattern of collective worship. The clergy take an active role in supporting and leading the collective worship that takes place in school. They also take time to care for the well-being of staff to offer pastoral support.

Becket Keys is a school where all are welcomed and where pupils and adults are treated well. Leaders are proactive in their approach to difference and diversity and model a caring and equitable culture. The impact of this is a school community where pupils are known and where they are nurtured. Character building is a priority, seeking to develop each pupil in the school through a consistent, kind approach. New staff are supported in their understanding of 'character education' through an induction programme. The priority that all members of the school community thrive is achieved through building positive relationships and interactions. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those who are vulnerable flourish. This is a result of staff being sensitive and attentive to individual needs. Staff feel trusted, supported and equipped in their roles at the school. They describe working in a compassionate school environment where they are encouraged to thrive. Parents are of the firm belief that their children are enabled and equipped with lifelong values both academic and pastoral at the school. Parents engage well with the school through planned opportunities including information evenings on well-being and weekly prayer meetings. This strengthens relationships between home and school.

Courageous advocacy is central to the work of the school. Many pupils serve in the school community, seeking to be agents of change. They have responsibilities that they enjoy, such as supporting the learning of others in lessons. The headteacher's challenge encourages those in the lower school to be compassionate ambassadors in the local community, donating, volunteering and being generous to others. Year 12 pupils are all encouraged to be courageous advocates in their prefect responsibilities. Pupils are outward looking changemakers and active in their support of charity work both locally and overseas. For example in their engagement with the charity 'I've Got Shoes'. Pastoral systems are driven by the school's vision and values. It enhances relationships with families and in turn attendance. Pastoral leaders have established a supportive school system in which respect, responsibility and forgiveness reinforce a restorative justice approach. This is central

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to the thriving of relationships.

Religious education (RE) is known as religion and philosophy (RP) at the school. The quality of RP engages and enthuses pupils. This is a result of a well-developed and refined curriculum. It is sequential, building on prior knowledge, skills and concepts. The content includes rich opportunities to explore differing faith traditions and to value them. Building critical thinking skills is at the core of pupil experience in the religion and philosophy department. This enables pupils to confidently evaluate the world in which they live. Teacher interaction with students provides regular feedback that increases pupils' engagement, knowledge and understanding. However, there is less of a focus on global Christianity and how it is understood and celebrated across the world. The religion and philosophy leader engages with diocesan training and seeks to support local primary schools to share expertise in the delivery of RE. Pupils are enthusiastic about their experiences in RP and speak confidently with a high level of understanding. All pupils study religion and philosophy with strong GCSE outcomes. Pupil enthusiasm for the subject is evident in a large cohort choosing to study it at A-level. Year 12 and 13 pupils value their core RE time in which they are challenged to engage critically with faith and current affairs.

The inspection findings indicate that Becket Keys School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	8 November 2023 - 9 November 2023	URN	138239
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	1117
Diocese	Chelmsford		
MAT/Federation	Russell Education Trust MAT		
Headteacher	Andy Scott-Evans		
Chair	Jenny Downs		
Inspector	Claire Gibson	No.	2227

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