

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bonsall Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Church Sctreet, Bonsall, Matlock, DE4 2AE
School vision	
<p>Loving to learn for life</p> <p>May wisdom enter your heart and knowledge be pleasant to your soul. Proverb 2:10</p> <p>Our vision is to create a welcoming and inclusive Christian atmosphere where all pupils are able to develop the wisdom and knowledge they need to succeed and flourish. We view this in terms of the academic knowledge pupils need, alongside key learning skills which support pupils in becoming confident, successful learners, allowing all to reach their potential in a school which sits at the heart of its' community.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly knowledgeable and committed leadership ensures that the Christian vision is the foundation for the school's achievements. • The school context drives responsive curriculum enrichment decisions, fostering pupils' interests through appropriate challenge and support. • Collective worship is at the heart of school life, bringing a profound sense of belonging to the entire community. • A deeply loving, inclusive culture enables everyone to belong and flourish. Differences are celebrated, enabling personal confidence and a sense of wellbeing to thrive. The school is proactive in responding compassionately to charitable organisations. • Religious education (RE) enables pupils to have a strong and coherent understanding of Christianity. The school ensures rich experiences to enhance knowledge and understanding. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that a shared understanding of spirituality enables pupils to make the most of reflection times. • Develop a culture whereby pupils are empowered to become independent agents for social action. • Ensure that pupils develop deeper knowledge and understanding of a wider range of world faiths to further enhance their appreciation of diversity. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Bonsall is a deeply inclusive school where everyone is nurtured and contributes with confidence. All are cherished and individually valued as one of God's children. Consequently, this community enables each person to flourish while developing talents and broadening horizons. Each pupil, including the more vulnerable, is known well. Staff are proactive in quickly finding solutions to overcome barriers. Furthermore, leaders are adept at reaching out to those with specific challenges. Governors have deep insights into how the Christian vision and associated values impacts on all.</p>	



They are very proactive in meeting with staff and pupils to monitor, review and assess achievements. Consequently, governors are very knowledgeable and wise in their tireless support of the school's on-going development.

The strong and trusting relationship between the school and the village community enables each to positively impact upon the other. Leaders welcome positive role models to inspire pupils. Local artists enhance extra-curricular opportunities. Pupils write for the village magazine and visit the elderly. Local charities such as the Food Bank are supported with produce from Harvest celebrations. In this way the school regularly affirms its central place within this mutually supportive village.

Leaders harness the opportunities that their rural environment provides for developing knowledge and skills. Pupils join in local activities and display their work in regional venues such as museums. Leaders effectively prepare pupils for life beyond Bonsall by developing ambitious learning experiences. By fostering a partnership with an inner-city London school, even through Covid lockdown, new insights into the wider world are achieved. Consequently, pupils are introduced to a range of cultures, faiths and diverse life experiences. Such foresight from leaders is inspirational and enhances lives.

By matching interests to carefully chosen activities, staff show their determination that each pupil will flourish. Extra-curricular experiences further enhance their enthusiasm. As a result, pupils 'love to learn for life'. Every individual matters. Staff will leave no stone unturned in their determination that each pupil will find success. Wisdom is developed by all knowing that mistakes are simply part of a learning journey. Errors are seen as rich opportunities to further develop knowledge. Adults are consistently loving and kind. Consequently, classrooms are filled with contented smiles.

The exceptionally harmonious, peaceful and respectful environment reflects the positive impact of collective worship. It is firmly rooted in the vision as well as consistently promoting Christian values. Everyone appreciates being invited to participate in their own way. Pupil leaders organise and oversee the weekly celebration assembly, linking awards to the school's values. Consequently, they promote a sense of common aspiration and shared ownership. Pupils frequently plan and lead additional worship experiences alongside adults. Prayers are said at key points during the day. Pupils reflect that prayers provide opportunity to give thanks for what they have and to lovingly ask for support for those in need. They write prayers and share them with others. However, the potential for opportunities such as these has not been fully developed. This is partly because there is no shared understanding of what spiritual development means for them and ways it can be nurtured. Embedding the vision and associated Christian values ensures that all appreciate the centrality of Jesus to the school's character. Christian values introduced during collective worship are explored during class-based activities. For example, pupils consider themes such as trust. Through the story of Noah believing in God's word pupils thought about how this is a treasured value in life. This cohesive approach enables them to be the foundation of the school's practice. Families attend the school's collective worship in the parish church each month and for major festivals. Additionally, Christians from the village regularly lead these times of celebration. This is another example of how the school, through the vision, is proactive in building strong community bonds.

Staff benefit from a strong partnership with the diocese enabling training, challenge and support. As a result, they continue to build their professional development and enhance the Church school ethos. Governors hold individual staff wellbeing meetings. Consequently, like pupils, adults feel special and valued. Staff recognise that leaders at all levels are motivating, sustaining a passion for teaching and learning support.

The school is proactive in challenging injustice and exploring social responsibility. This is achieved

through adults developing pupils' awareness, notably through charitable organisations. This includes raising funds to support the people of Ukraine and the refuge centre in Derby. Pupils have been environmental stewards by planting a variety of woodland trees to enhance the nature trail. They are compassionate and seek to make a difference through such actions. However, pupils being independent agents of social change is at an early stage of development.

Pupils are restorative in their relationships. They resolve occasional differences of opinion with maturity. Pupils recognise hardships both locally and beyond, empathising with the challenges that their peers face. They rightly explain that this is the basis for the school being happy. There is compassion for each other, based upon mutual respect, enabling everyone to thrive in the company of others.

The carefully planned RE curriculum is well taught and pupils are gaining a good understanding of Christianity as a world faith. They speak confidently about their opinions and the importance of respecting a wide range of beliefs. Pupils eagerly embrace the many opportunities they are given to explore life's complex questions. As a result, they think deeply and are eager to question and challenge. RE is planned sequentially, effectively using the locally agreed syllabus and the Understanding Christianity resource. Achieving the Silver RE Mark demonstrates how the subject contributes to successful whole school outcomes. All, including those deemed to be disadvantaged, make progress through the rich and engaging RE curriculum. Creative use of religious artefacts provides stimuli for discussion and enhances exploration of world faiths. Pupils visit a range of places of worship and experience cultural diversity. However, not all pupils' understanding of world religions is as strong as their other areas of RE. Nevertheless, they still make good progress overall.

There is a communal pride in the impact that this Church school has upon pupils and adults alike. Being inclusive and deeply Christian it is a catalyst for developing wisdom and knowledge for all to flourish. This results in pupils becoming confident, successful learners.

The inspection findings indicate that Bonsall Church of England VA Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	16 October 2023	URN	112888
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	44
Diocese	Derby		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Rebecca Smart		
Chair	Louise Stevenson		
Inspector	Mark Millinson	No.	2121