



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

Highcliffe St Mark Primary School	
Address	Greenways, Highcliffe, BH23 5AZ
School vision	
<p>In our school, our ethos, our actions and our thoughts are underpinned by our core Christian values of respect, courage and compassion. These golden threads permeate our teaching, our policies and the way that we behave towards each other. Together, we learn how Jesus's teachings and Bible stories continuously reflect these values and they guide us in our responses to each other and the choices that we make. Our children learn that these values are not just about attitudes and beliefs about others but are also important for your own sense of self-worth.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school community share a clear understanding of the existing biblical roots of the vision. The inclusive values of respect, courage and compassion are woven into the life of Highcliffe St Mark like a golden thread. Leaders have created an environment in which pupils flourish.</li> <li>• Pupils and adults are treated well. Effective teamwork and togetherness make Highcliffe St Mark a happy school. Those considered to be vulnerable are effectively nurtured, ensuring that they flourish.</li> <li>• A shared understanding of spirituality is utilised by staff within collective worship and across most of the curriculum. Worship is inclusive of everyone and effectively allows pupils and adults to reflect on the Christian vision and associated values.</li> <li>• The school community is a strong team. Consequently, the outreach of the vision beyond the school is meaningful and makes a difference in the community. Pupils learn to be agents of change in their locality.</li> <li>• The recently revised religious education (RE) curriculum is well-sequenced, and teachers are skillfully supported by leaders. Effective training for leaders and teachers is utilised to enhance the provision of RE across the school.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed the revised Christian vision so that it effectively drives all policy and practice. This is to ensure that the school is faithful to its Christian foundation.</li> <li>• Ensure that collective worship planning expands pupils' understanding of the Bible and teachings of Jesus. This is to develop the range of biblical teaching that pupils engage with.</li> <li>• Develop planning in RE so that it better reflects the school's vision. This is to ensure that the vision is having the intended effect within the RE curriculum.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>Leaders are in the process of reviewing and refining the Christian vision at Highcliffe St Mark. The vision is lived out through the deeply embedded values of respect, courage and compassion. A range of Bible stories are linked to each value. These are central to the school's success, as they are well-</p>	

established and inspirational to pupils and adults. Members of the school community articulate the biblical roots of the vision and values with confidence. The vision is dynamic in response to the school context. Consequently, a culture of respect, courage and compassion are woven across the work and life of the school. Governors effectively monitor the outworking of the vision and values to accurately evaluate the impact it has on pupils and adults. Leaders make strategic decisions driven by the vision and values following their accurate evaluation of the school. One example is the recruitment of a strong pastoral team to assist all pupils in a compassionate and nurturing manner. Leaders are ambitious for every pupil and member of staff. High quality professional development is invested in for staff at all levels. Staff wellbeing is a priority for leaders. As a result, professional fulfilment based on the Christian vision and values is high. A cohesive team work together to model respect, courage and compassion in their role. Staff turnover is low, as people enjoy their work and feel supported by the strong sense of togetherness and teamwork.

The ambitious curriculum reflects the school's deeply rooted Christian vision and values effectively. School leaders tailor the curriculum to the needs of pupils. Pupils considered to be vulnerable are well supported by highly trained staff. Leaders ensure that intervention is put in place to give pupils courage to persevere when tasks are challenging. The curriculum is effectively designed to meet the requirements of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. For example, pupils are well prepared for new concepts by pre-teaching sessions that enable them to be ready to access whole class lessons. This approach grows from respect and compassion for everyone. Consequently, when pupils struggle, they are well supported academically, emotionally and socially. A shared understanding of spirituality is woven into parts of the wider curriculum. This ensures that pupils' spiritual development is paramount. The model of windows, doors and mirrors enables staff to plan and harness spontaneous opportunities for spiritual growth. A common language of spirituality is shared by staff. The curriculum also supports pupils to look beyond themselves. They support several local charities, like the local food bank, and are keenly aware of environmental issues.

Worship is fully inclusive of everyone. An example is that key words are signed by the whole school. Prayer is invitational as all are welcome to affirm the words by saying Amen, or to listen respectfully. Pupils and adults have regular opportunities to grow spiritually during times of reflection throughout the day. The local church community makes a valuable contribution to the worship and spiritual life of the school. Volunteers from the church lead Open the Book worship sessions weekly. They are met with respect when they lead acts of worship in school. Pupils and adults enjoy attending services in St Mark's Church for major Christian festivals. Adults leading worship include opportunities for pupils and adults to grow spiritually through a range of worship styles. The biblical roots of the vision are articulated through the bible stories linked to each of the values. People are confident to articulate the relevance of these stories in their lives. However, beyond these examples, pupils have a limited comprehension of the teachings of the Bible and Jesus. Planning for worship does not give enough attention to the exploration of Bible stories and their relevance today. Worship regularly inspires pupils to live out respect, courage and compassion in the actions they take. Music plays a vital role within worship. Pupils enjoy listening to talented peers playing the piano as people leave the hall following worship. Outdoor reflection spaces enable pupils to encounter moments of spiritual stillness and calm during breaktimes.

A culture of respect is the hallmark of Highcliffe St Mark. It is this, that ensures a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well. Partnerships between school, parents and family members are built on mutual respect and trust. Parents appreciate the care offered so generously to them as well as to their children. This is particularly so for those families where children have special educational needs and disabilities. Leaders make courageous provision for pupils with complex special educational needs. Pupils behave well in class and around the school. Older pupils are effective role models for younger children at playtimes. Highcliffe St Mark is a happy school because respect, courage and compassion direct how pupils and adults treat each other. Incidents of prejudice are

rare. The school promotes teamwork and self-worth through its vision and values, with pupils taking responsibility for their actions.

A positive partnership exists with the diocese offering training for leaders on Church school effectiveness, developing worship and RE. The school is at the heart of the local community and uses this position to champion local causes and charities. Through the curriculum and charitable works of the school, the Christian vision creates an active culture of justice and responsibility. Pupils are empowered to lead activities in the community. For example, the recent project to grow plants around the village to promote bees. Pupils are proud to take responsibility for such projects. The personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum contains learning that tackles injustice in society. This ensures that pupils are enthusiastic agents for change.

The school's RE curriculum is effective. Leaders ensure that RE has a high profile and is a priority for teachers. Training from the diocese is cascaded to teachers by leaders. Subsequently, teachers have a good subject knowledge. The recently revised curriculum is well sequenced and well balanced offering interesting units of work for pupils. However, planning does not link the units of work explicitly enough to the school's vision. Consequently, there are missed opportunities for RE to reinforce the vision and values. Leaders have not ensured that the shared understanding of spirituality is used effectively in RE lessons. Pupils are rightly proud of their learning in RE. The curriculum is well balanced and pupils acquire age appropriate skills of inquiry, critical analysis, and interpretation. They enjoy RE lessons and learning about Christianity as a global religion. Diocesan training and support are used to develop the curriculum and ensure that teachers have up to date knowledge of best practice in RE. Displays promote critical thinking, celebrate religious diversity, and heighten the profile of the vision.

The inspection findings indicate that Highcliffe St Mark Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	16 October 2023	URN	134987
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	641
Diocese	Portsmouth;Winchester		
MAT/Federation	Christchurch Learning Partnership		
Head of School	Claire Barker		
Chair	Lisa Caola		
Inspector	Toby Long	No.	896