



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

Shiplake Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Memorial Avenue, Shiplake, Henley, RG9 4DN

School vision
<p>We will nurture each child and inspire ambition and excellence. We build our four pillars of excellence (faith, learning, innovation, and community), on the firm foundation of our Christian values. We aspire to be compassionate, to demonstrate wisdom, celebrate equality, tell the truth, and live in peace as children of God and as friends within our community. To go out into the world, with a love of learning, to innovate and serve our community strengthened in our faith. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school's ambitious, securely embedded Christian vision is the bedrock of this community. Using the vision alongside the school's pertinent Christian values, leaders create a supportive community where pupils and adults thrive.</li> <li>• An inspiring and innovative curriculum enriches pupils' experiences and outcomes. Its emphasis on learning through challenge and embracing mistakes supports even the most vulnerable to advance. This results in determined individuals who love learning.</li> <li>• Learning in religious education (RE) is exceptional. Pupils succeed in knowing and understanding a range of religions and worldviews because the curriculum is appropriate, engaging, and challenging.</li> <li>• Collective worship is vibrant, fully inclusive, and memorable. Carefully planned, well led and enriching, it is central to the school community. It allows opportunities for pupils and adults to develop their personal spirituality.</li> <li>• A strong partnership with the church results in pupils identifying ways in which they can live out biblical teaching. It helps them recognise Christianity as a living faith.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend global awareness across the curriculum so that pupils are increasingly knowledgeable of difference and diversity within and between cultures.</li> </ul>
Inspection findings
<p>Strong leadership in this small, rural school, has established an ambitious Christian vision that permeates the whole community. The school's well-established values underpin the vision. Leadership and governance are strengths of the school. Governors are extremely proactive and make courageous strategic decisions that impact the school and its surrounding community. For example, they have generously and willingly taken on the management of the local nursery. It is now based at the school and widely recognised as a welcomed, beneficial service for the community. Additionally, the school provides leadership support to other schools and the local authority. These acts of serve exemplify the school's vision to go into the world, strengthened by faith, to innovate</p>

and serve. St Peter and St Paul's, the school's attached church, offers high quality and consistent support. Clergy attend RE lessons and regularly lead worship. They are welcomed friends and are available for pastoral care when needs arise. Their actions help pupils understand Christianity as a living faith. Leaders, at all levels, collaborate closely with representatives of the diocese. Consequently, they have a deep understanding of current thinking in Church school education.

The vision inspires breadth and richness in the school's curriculum. Leaders are keen that it addresses social injustice and inequality not experienced within the school's local context. With this in mind, pupils learn about renowned social advocates and ethical issues like plastic pollution. These topics help pupils recognise that they can be agents of social change. Embracing the vision's emphasis on excellence, teachers actively seek innovative ways to continually improve learning. They make opportunities for pupils to acquire new skills and knowledge through challenge and embracing their mistakes. Pupils are encouraged to think critically, they know they have a voice and see effort as a way to succeed. The curriculum is complemented by a wealth of exciting enrichment experiences in areas such as sports, outdoor learning, and music. Teachers consciously and consistently strive to meet pupils' individual learning needs. Their efforts are a clear reflection of the school's vision to develop a love of learning. Staff skilfully deploy interventions to where they are needed. Parents whose children benefit from additional support speak highly and with justification, of the opportunities that their children receive. Leaders ensure all pupils are flourishing emotionally and socially through effective wellbeing and pastoral care. As a result, pupils are equipped with strong personal skills that promote mental resilience. Professional caring relationships, built on the vision, ensures pupils have confidence in the adults who teach and care for them. As a result, all pupils behave extremely well. They work hard, feel safe, and enjoy learning in a calm and purposeful environment. Consequently, they flourish. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the curriculum ensures the vision remains at the heart of school improvement.

Pupils articulate clearly and naturally how the vision and associated values link to their actions. They readily understand the practical application of both. Pupils express an exceptional, intuitive knowledge, that the Christian vision applies to all areas of life. Therefore, they take active steps to support others. This can be seen in their recent efforts to raise money and write prayers for earthquake victims in Morocco. Their compassion is encouraged through the provision of many extra-curricular roles and opportunities to develop social awareness. Leaders, aware of the school's location, are ambitious to broaden pupils' awareness of difference and diversity within and between cultures. To this end, they have begun work with the British Council and are making new connections with schools in Malawi.

The school has a robust shared understanding of spirituality which is spontaneously expressed throughout the school day. Pupils aptly use the language of spirituality, as understood at Shiplake, to convey what they discern as spiritual moments. For example, they express how they reflect on life, wonder about the unexplained, and respond through action or belief. This allows pupils to pursue their God given potential. Thus, pupils' spiritual growth is flourishing.

RE is given high status. Leaders' expertise is utilised to enrich a subject curriculum that 'celebrates equality and demonstrates wisdom.' Consequently, RE significantly reinforces the school's vision. Pupils enjoy their learning and talk about RE with enthusiasm. Pupils of all abilities confidently discuss their own views and feel empowered to ask big questions in a safe environment. RE provides opportunities for them to learn about, and reflect on, a range of religions. In addition, they have a robust, age-appropriate understanding of Christianity as a living world faith. Furthermore, trips to church reinforces pupils' understanding of Christianity's impact on Britain's cultural heritage. Additionally, pupils visit places of worship linked to other faiths. Guests who represent a variety of faiths are welcomed into school. This promotes the school's quest for inclusivity and helps pupils understand the impact personal beliefs have on those of faith. Consequently, RE is robust in its

expression of the school's vision. Assessment is rigorous and meaningful, and pupils know what they need to do to improve. Consequently, pupils make good progress and flourish in RE.

Collective worship is central to the school community. It is fully inclusive, inspirational, and thought-provoking. Knowledgeable staff, clergy, and governors skilfully celebrate worship ensuring opportunities for spiritual development are at its heart. Pupils lead worship regularly and with confidence. They understand it as a vibrant, joyous, yet reflective experience. Collective worship enables pupils and adults to develop their personal spirituality. Parents are welcomed at all Christian festivals held in the church as well as termly services. They remark on the spiritual warmth they experience during worship and the sense of community that being together brings. At appropriate times, worship focuses on national or international events or disasters. This enables pupils to understand how faith sustains people in times of crises and inspires them to help others. Reflective spaces in each classroom, give pupils opportunities to think and pray. In addition, pupils and adults have peacefulness sessions built into every day. These moments of quiet and stillness are used for reflection or prayer. They allow individuals to build on the mornings' collective worship through personal, spiritual moments. The impact of collective worship is evaluated regularly through interviews with pupils and staff and is acted on appropriately.

The school's distinctive Christian vision permeates life at Shiplake. Its effect is evident everywhere, from the quality of relationships to the decision making of the governors. The vision creates an ambitious outlook to learning. It drives exceptional opportunities, experiences, and achievements for all. The community lives in peace. It is a place where adults and pupils flourish.

The inspection findings indicate that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling people to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	29 November 2023	URN	123203
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	132
Diocese	Oxford		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Katherine Page-Howie		
Chair	Dan Norman		
Inspector	Delia Sheppard	No.	942