



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St David's Church of England Primary School, Moreton-in-Marsh	
Address	East Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0LQ

School vision
<p>Enquiring minds, caring hearts, creative hands</p> <p>‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and your neighbour as yourself’. (Mark 12: 30 – 31)</p> <p>Our school’s Christian foundation guides, challenges and inspires every child to reach their full potential as they become life-long learners and confident citizens, equipped to love, lead and serve.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driven by excellent leadership at all levels, the school has a robustly developed and well-embedded Christian vision. It is firmly underpinned by a biblical narrative and clearly understood vision statement and associated values. This gives the school a strong sense of purpose and drives everything it does. • The Christian vision is a constant thread through systems and policies. This enables adults to work unstintingly for the wellbeing and flourishing of others. Exceptional levels of teamwork result in skills and talents being harnessed so all pupils experience success in personal and academic achievements. • The newly formed rich curriculum is shaped by the school’s vision and needs of the pupils. This enables them to become confident learners and caring citizens. • Collective worship links deeply to the school vision and values. Responding to pupil feedback has led to worship being accessible to all and inspires pupils into action. The variety and quality of worship at St David’s feeds into rich opportunities for spiritual growth. • The religious education (RE) curriculum builds on prior learning. With accurate assessment and quality teaching pupils gain confidence and are provided with opportunities to make good progress. Pupils have an extensive knowledge of a range of faiths and beliefs.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance opportunities for pupils to engage further with their local community in outreach projects and activities. This is to deepen their understanding of diversity, and inequality, in the wider world. • Embed pupils’ use of language to describe their spiritual development and feelings in order for them to continue to flourish.
Inspection findings
<p>Aspirational and driven leadership ensures the well-embedded Christian vision is at the heart of all that is planned at St David’s. Weaving the thread of the Gospel inspired vision into each child's heart creates a culture in which they can thrive. The accessible language of the vision and associated values are understood by all. This ensures that strategic plans, policies and actions are all tailored to</p>

ensure pupils and adults flourish. Leaders invest in their staff with professional development and training to enable a true understanding of working in a Church school. As a result, pupils and adults are nurtured, cared for and feel a strong sense of belonging. Parents and carers welcome the family feel of the school where any problems are swiftly resolved. Dedicated governors are highly supportive in their role. Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the vision is exemplary. Consequently, pupils and staff feel listened to, practice continually improves and all flourish.

An engaging curriculum is matched to the school's context and the needs of the pupils. To inspire enquiring minds and creative hands, staff plan engaging experiences, including visitors and visits, bringing learning to life. Spiritual development opportunities are planned within each topic, leading to spiritual growth. Topics are explored sequentially, so ideas cohesively link together. Revisiting themes allows pupils to build on knowledge and expand skills. Using the 'do it, twist it, solve it' method of problem solving results in pupils being well-supported in their learning. They are also challenged to think more deeply. Numerous extra-curricular opportunities from forest school to residential broaden horizons for all pupils. The school's 'pupil promise' scheme ensures all pupils have opportunities to try things they would not normally engage in such as stargazing. Staff are unswerving and highly effective in their commitment to inclusion through a range of programmes tailored to each child's needs. As a result, those pupils who have additional needs or are disadvantaged are supported and enabled to thrive.

Vision infused worship using a variety of styles and a range of leaders is at the heart of St David's. Exploration of themes unpack the vision leading to gatherings and worship that excites and nourishes all. Innovative styles from 'big start' assemblies to 'open the book' and services, in church and school, offer rich experiences for all. Worship is deeply Anglican in style, sensitively crafted within a culture of togetherness where all feel welcomed and included. The relationship between school and the church community is harmonious and nourishing. Pupil worship leaders guide and inspire others to contribute to worship through planning and participation. As a result, there is a sense of real belonging. Worship reflections, in pupil 'values scrap books' enable leaders to evaluate pupils' spiritual growth and develop practice to meet their continuing needs. Pupils value prayer as an essential part of their lives and regularly write them to share with or support each other. Reflection times are planned into all areas of the school day using the many easily accessible areas to be still or to pray. Consequently, pupils have opportunities to explore their feelings and emotions, contributing to their spiritual growth. There is a shared language of spirituality, but the way they are able to express themselves is not fully embedded.

Pupils are treated with generous patience and unflinching respect. This demonstrates the living out of the vision's 'caring hearts' statement. As a result, pupils behave well and show consideration for each other. Parents and carers are extremely positive about the school. They are rightly encouraged by the importance placed on pupils' well-being and mental health support. The nurture group held daily in 'The Harbour' area is an example of meeting pupil's emotional needs. Investing in Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA) and a learning mentor has resulted in pupils growing in self-confidence. Pupils are encouraged to use their school vision and its associated values to support others through the awarding of 'values postcards'. This demonstrates the vision in action. Staff are equally cared for through the provision of personalised 'supervision' time when needed. This time is provided for staff to share any concerns in a confidential space. Supporting staff in this way empowers them, they feel valued and loved.

The school's vision encourages pupils to 'lead, love and serve.' Pupils learn to be responsible citizens in a variety of ways. Close links with the community, such as singing at Oak Tree Mews care home demonstrates the school's Christian outreach work. Supporting the local food bank and participating in UNICEF's 'Rights Respecting Schools' programme shows the school's determination to develop pupils' understanding of their diverse world. Issues such as the impact of climate change

and the movement of refugees throughout the world are explored. Children are encouraged to have a voice and act on areas that interest them. The Layla library twinning project is an example where St David's pupils have had a positive impact on the lives of others, sharing books. Opportunities for pupils to reflect on social action in the wider world are less developed. Carefully chosen topics such as celebrating Black History Month are used to promote respect and living together in unity. Consequently, pupils speak about 'everyone in the world being our friend.' New pupils are always welcomed and pupil relationships are strong.

RE provision at St David's is vision and context driven, with pupils' needs at its core. The work of the very knowledgeable leader is highly regarded by the diocese and good practice is shared with other schools. This enhances opportunities for flourishing in RE beyond the school itself. There is significant investment in staff development in RE. Current ideas are shared and teaching inspired, having a positive impact on pupils' religious literacy. Resources such as 'Understanding Christianity' enhance the school's curriculum, ensuring that pupils have broad learning experiences enriching their learning. Engaging lessons are delivered to teach children about Christianity and a range of world faiths. Innovative practice such as using pictorial prompt cards, storytelling with puppets, or using peaceful music enhances lessons. This results in pupils being enthusiastic and confident in class. They easily make connections with their learning and living in the world today. The use of challenging questions and open discussion develops mind and spirit.

Consistently high achievements in RE teaching and learning leads to all pupils making good progress. They are enthusiastic and curious in class, making links with current and prior learning. Work is well presented, of a high quality and shows progression of skills and depth of knowledge. Good use is made of on-going assessment to determine next steps for all pupils. This has a positive influence on RE standards.

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

Information			
Inspection date	18 October 2023	URN	139170
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	255
Diocese	Gloucester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Jennifer Walker		
Chair	Robin Whitworth		
Inspector	Carol Dougill	No.	2116