



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

St Nicholas Church of England VC Primary School, Bromham	
Address	The Leaze, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2EY

School vision
<p>St Nicholas Church of England (VC) School is a nurturing, Christian school in the heart of the community which aims to inspire life-long learning. We will encourage every individual to find their passion and achieve excellence.</p> <p>‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbour as yourself.’ (Matthew 22: 37–39).</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school leadership promotes an effective Christian vision based on the summary of the Ten Commandments. This encourages the values of love, friendship, courage and hope which the pupils articulate clearly and live out in their lives.</li> <li>• Collective worship is thoroughly planned and organised, and supportively linked with the vision. There is clear impact on the spiritual and moral development of pupils.</li> <li>• All pupils are encouraged to be articulate and reflective learners. The school very effectively meets the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).</li> <li>• Pupils regard church and chapel as ‘an extension of school’ and the links are very strong. This has significant impact on their spiritual development and understanding of community.</li> <li>• Well planned and effective religious education (RE) produces pupils who speak confidently about Christianity, world religions and worldviews.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the newly created vision more explicit and evident in all underpinning policies. This will show how it drives and motivates all areas of school life.</li> <li>• Fully identify opportunities for promoting spiritual development in all curriculum subjects. This is in order to show pupils that spirituality pervades all areas of life.</li> <li>• Develop understanding of Christianity as a global, multi-cultural world faith. This is so pupils can learn about the variety of ways in which Christians worship across the world.</li> </ul>
Inspection findings
<p>The values of love, friendship, courage and hope derived from the vision are clearly lived out in pupils' lives. The school has a clear, recently developed, Christian vision which is not yet fully embedded. However, most pupils can make the link with the verse from the Bible on which it is based. This is evident in their relationships in school and with the wider community. The biblical idea of ‘love thy neighbour’ is important to the Bromham community. One example is the annual Bromham ‘Pudding Run’, a fund-raising event where parents and pupils participate and everyone works together. As a result of this, pupils' lives are enriched and the closeness of the community</p>

strengthened. The school is part of an informal group of church and non-church schools which supports creative professional dialogue and encouragement to staff. As a result of this, continuous improvements are made. A committed group of governors regularly monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision. However, the vision as a driving force is not clearly visible in all underpinning school policies. There is a good relationship with the Diocese of Salisbury education team. This supports the teaching of RE and contributes to ongoing consideration of Christian distinctiveness.

The vision drives the curriculum. In lessons pupils are encouraged to be reflective learners. They are engaged through challenges and questions which produce thoughtful responses. This extends to all learners, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The school offers a high level of care to all pupils. Their obvious enjoyment of learning ensures they make progress. Parents appreciate the caring approach and bespoke nature of the support their children receive. A reflective indoor space supports learning, and an outdoor space is under development. Pupils have a range of enthusiastic ideas about this, and how it might assist them in spiritual reflection. A shared understanding of spirituality is evident and a draft spirituality policy is under consideration. Work on identifying opportunities for spiritual development in all curriculum subjects is not yet fully completed.

Collective worship is well organised, and has impact seen in willing pupil participation. The 'Open the Book' team visits regularly and leads worship with pupil involvement. As a result, they have significant impact on pupils' biblical knowledge and spiritual development. Pupils have a positive relationship with members of the team, and this helps to forge links with the church and the chapel. They are comfortable in both buildings regarding them as a very positive extension of school. Pupils plan and deliver celebration worship which aids their spiritual development and understanding. The hymn books they use are a gift from local families further evidencing the community support for their Church school. Pupils' evaluation of worship drives future planning. This is seen in a proforma they use to record their comments. These are pasted in a large book for easy reference. They express their appreciation of the invitation to reflect as a calm space in a busy day. Their evaluative comments demonstrate this in the words 'for a moment thoughts don't race.' This supports pupil mental health and wellbeing. Pupils understand the importance of prayer, and they use a prayer tree to record their requests. The people of the church and chapel are enthusiastic and committed to supporting the spiritual life of the school. A simple invitational pupil led liturgy begins and ends worship. There is also a ritual built around the cross, opening the Bible, and lighting a candle. This helps pupils to understand that worship involves the whole being in the approach to God. Worship is invitational and inclusive providing time and space for everyone to reflect. Most pupils link worship with the vision, and are inspired to live the values in their lives.

The vision promotes the idea of interdependence, and as a result pupils really care for one another. They behave well and are considerate. All staff speak of how the supportive community of approachable colleagues helps their positive mental health. Parents value the variety of communications from the school. As a result, they feel involved in school events including invitations to attend worship. They speak enthusiastically of the Church school ethos and its impact, especially in terms of a caring community.

Pupils have some understanding of the teachings of Jesus about justice for everyone. Some can link this with the biblical story of the Good Samaritan which they see as supporting the vision. The school council has a good level of knowledge on ecological matters and understand their responsibility for God's creation. This is evident in various activities they undertake. Pupils also understand that some people are disadvantaged by a lack of food and medicines. They strongly support local charitable events and some national ones to express their concern. Whilst not fully developed, their activities show some knowledge of the idea of social responsibility.



RE is very well organised by an experienced subject lead. It has clear impact on the lives of the pupils and their personal spirituality. They understand the effect that religion might have on peoples' lives. One example of this is a thoughtful reflection on how pilgrimage might help people deal with inner conflict. Further impact is seen through recall of prior learning. Although not always accurate, pupils display confident knowledge of Christianity and some world faiths. They also understand the effect of religion on moral issues. One example is a study of economic wellbeing considering the fairness of the distribution of money across the world. The stories of Christianity are linked with an Easter and Christmas trail in partnership with the churches. As a result pupils are very familiar with these and their significance. Reflective learning in RE books, shows a wide range of provision in the subject. RE contributes to spiritual development through links with art and music. Pupils show the impact of this on their spirituality in explaining the significance of some religious art. This helps them formulate their own worldview. The RE lead has an effective understanding of how and what pupils are learning. However, there is less understanding of Christianity as a multicultural world faith, and the variety of ways in which Christians worship. All statutory and church requirements for RE are met.

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

Information			
Inspection date	29 November 2023	URN	126307
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	78
Diocese	Salisbury		
MAT/Federation			
Acting Headteacher	Clare Kitts		
Chair	Ross Phillips		
Inspector	Jeremy Hellier	No.	899