

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Philip's Church of England Primary School	
Address	Bloomfield Rise, Odd Down, Bath, BA2 2BN
School vision	
<p>Our school vision is to be an exceptional Church school committed to investing in young lives. A school where staff and governors work in partnership with parents to provide a caring stimulating environment rooted in Christian values; a school with high expectations where all are valued and nurtured as individuals because they are uniquely created and loved by God.</p> <p>Underpinned by 'Life in all its Fullness' John 10:10</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders demonstrate a clear understanding of the Christian vision of the school and the way it is underpinned through biblical teaching. • A well-known set of school Christian values, rooted in the vision, creates a deeply supportive caring culture. As a result, the wellbeing of all is prioritised and adults and pupils treat each other well. • Collective worship, shaped by the school's Anglican foundation is at the heart of daily life. It provides meaningful moments for all to flourish spiritually. • Very effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a challenging and relevant curriculum which enhances pupils' learning. As a result, pupils enjoy learning RE and this has a positive impact on their understanding of a range of faiths, including Christianity. • The words of the vision that all 'are uniquely created and loved by God', shapes a culture of inclusion and equity. Carefully planned support for pupils considered to be vulnerable ensures all are treated well and have the opportunity to flourish. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that robust systems are in place to monitor the effectiveness of the vision. This is to strengthen the way the Christian vision drives the work of the school • Embed the school's new understanding of spiritual development so that staff can plan for deepening experiences across the curriculum. Monitor its impact to ensure it has a positive impact on pupils' learning and wellbeing. • Raise the profile of global issues of inequality and injustice in the curriculum so that pupils feel inspired to act as agents of change. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The vision of St Philip's rooted in the words of Jesus, is widely understood and articulated and has a very positive impact. A set of well-chosen and long established Christian values weave through all aspects of daily life and unite the school. At the heart of all interactions is the shared understanding that all 'are uniquely created and loved by God'. The rich and profound partnership with the local church both practical and spiritual, enables the vision to be a living reality. Being part of the multi academy trust (MAT), spanning two dioceses, widens the opportunities for</p>	

professional development which are used very effectively. The partnership with the diocese is fully embedded and highly valued. The MAT promotes very beneficial working relationships between its Church schools which have a deep impact. Focused monitoring by school leaders, such as for RE, has ensured some understanding of the effectiveness of the vision. Areas for development have been accurately identified. However, the self-evaluation process is underdeveloped. This is due to the limited involvement of governors and other members of the school community.

The school's curriculum is an expression of its vision enabling all to flourish by living life in all its fullness. Regular reviews of the content and relevance of the curriculum by leaders and staff ensure learning is engaging. It is fully focussed on providing a stimulating curriculum which meets the needs of pupils. The headteacher, senior leaders and staff make bold decisions with the curriculum. As a result of their actions, the potential of pupils considered to be disadvantaged is transformed. Consequently, pupils enjoy their learning and highly value their time at school. Opportunities across the curriculum are maximised to develop pupils' wide range of talents and interests. Pupils talk with animation of the way that the vision enables them to enjoy life and flourish. They describe how the vision inspires them to dream of the possibilities they might achieve. The curriculum is enriched by a wide range of extra-curricular activities including exciting trips and residential visits. Staff are developing a shared understanding of spiritual development. Leaders have a structured plan in place to develop spiritual and ethical awareness across the curriculum. However, its impact on pupils' learning is unclear as it has not been fully implemented or monitored,

Collective worship embeds St Philip's vision and values in their biblical roots and is central to the school day. It provides a vibrant yet peaceful space which all present value. Clergy lead worship each week and have a strong presence in school reflecting the school's Christian foundation. Themes include Christian values and topical issues as well as following the Christian calendar. The school is warmly welcomed to church for the main Christian festivals, thus developing pupils' understanding of the church year. Worship provides times of calm, quiet reflection, prayer and joyful singing. These activities promote a deep sense of spiritual flourishing which sustains and inspires the community. A candle and a greeting are used effectively to develop an understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in line with Anglican tradition. Older pupils are well-established as weekly worship leaders. Their roles are often highly interactive and are much admired by younger pupils. Pupil leaders are very well prepared and make good use of questioning eliciting thoughtful responses which promote spiritual flourishing. Church school leaders within the trust place a high priority on developing good practice. However, the role of governors and pupils in the self-evaluation process is limited.

St Philip's is a warm, caring community where all are treated well. Strong relationships, inspired by the vision and associated values such as respect are central to this. Older pupils take caring and responsible roles as buddies for younger ones. Staff speak of a culture where seeking support is actively encouraged by leaders who prioritise their mental health and wellbeing. As a result staff morale is high. Pupils describe the importance of their relationships with peers and highly value having 'friends to lean on'. In this way, the vision enables them to enjoy life and help others to do so. St Philip's is an inclusive, friendly school community where bullying is rare. Healthy relationships are promoted very well by the school's relationship and sex education which reflects the vision.

A calm and respectful atmosphere permeates life and is evident throughout the school. Difference and diversity are welcomed and celebrated in this accepting community. The vision has a profound impact on the way pupils care for each other. Pupils learn from others within the school's own diverse community whose experiences of life have been very different. They aspire to make a difference through the work of the school council and MAT pupil parliament. They are pro-active in their support for causes which unite their vision and values. 'Philosophy Fridays' is a special time when older pupils explore big questions, developing their views on moral and ethical issues. They enjoy learning about people who act as agents on behalf of others such as Martin

Luther King. Nevertheless, there is not sufficient focus on specific questions which develop pupils' understanding of disadvantage and deprivation. Consequently, pupils do not feel motivated to engage in social action projects which challenge injustice and inequality.

RE is an engaging and inspiring subject reflecting the vision promoting 'fullness of life.' The recently rewritten curriculum is well planned, effectively balanced and focussed on meeting the needs of all pupils. Relevant training and an education review by the MAT has a beneficial impact on leadership. The use of 'big questions' enhances pupils' engagement in RE stimulating powerful discussions. As a result, pupils enjoy RE because they find the curriculum inspires learning which is challenging and motivating. They recognise its relevance to their lives and develop an understanding and respect for people from a range of faiths. Pupils from within the school community act as faith ambassadors sharing their beliefs with their peers. As a result, pupils show keen interest and respectful understanding of a range of faiths including Christianity. Pupils are encouraged to reflect and think deeply about their beliefs and those of others. Consequently, RE makes a substantial contribution to pupils' spiritual development.

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

Information			
Inspection date	19 September 2023	URN	143560
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	273
Diocese	Bath & Wells		
MAT/Federation	The Palladian Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Andrew Joy		
Chair	Ruth Balch		
Inspector	Daphne Spitzer	No.	37