



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School	
Address	Vernham Dean, Andover, SP11 0JY

School vision

Develop compassionate, courageous, creative citizens of the future in God's love.
We are committed to creating a loving, compassionate, Christian atmosphere in which everyone can SOAR - to have Success for all, Ownership of learning, Aspiration to achieve excellence and to be Resilient, risk takers so they can be the best they can be.

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31

School strengths

- The vision is clearly rooted in Christian teaching. It unites the school and is a source of nourishment for all.
- Opportunities for spiritual development are well-defined through the curriculum. Pupils and adults confidently articulate their spiritual growth.
- Collective worship is the heartbeat of school life. Pupils and adults deeply value this time in the day together.
- A strong partnership with the Pastrow Benefice team enhances the school's vision. This supports the flourishing of all.
- Religious education (RE) is exceptionally well-led. Pupils have high regard for the subject and how it positively shapes their lives.

Areas for development

- Sharpen systems to evaluate the Christian vision by leaders, including governors. This is to strengthen the impact of the school's well-established and embedded Christian vision on the flourishing of all.
- Enhance opportunities for all pupils to engage in social action beyond their local community. This is to deepen their understanding of global issues and courageously challenge injustice.
- Further develop processes to monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship. This is to ensure worship continues to evolve over time, extending the way it provides opportunities for all to flourish spiritually.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision unites, guides and nourishes all at Vernham Dean Gillum's. Leaders, governors, staff and pupils clearly articulate their accurate understanding of the vision. It has been a source of strength through recent turbulent times. Dedicated governors are now a regular presence in the

school. The vision guides courageous and compassionate leaders, including governors through periods of uncertainty. It ensures an absolute focus on the needs of the whole school community at all times. Through their revised monitoring, leaders and governors are now beginning to understand the wider impact of the vision. Governors are ambitious for the future development of the school. They are clear how an outworking of the vision is the key to fostering fruitful links with the local community. Governors are resolutely committed to the flourishing of all, within, and beyond, the school.

Compassion, courage and creativity are woven wisely throughout the curriculum. For example, cultural capital passports ensure pupils experience a range of well-crafted opportunities to deepen and broaden their views. Leaders, including governors, routinely evaluate the impact of this work. Spiritual development is an intrinsic part of the curriculum. Spirituality areas in each classroom and the school hall encourage meaningful reflection and contemplation. The language of 'candles, windows, mirrors, doors' provides pupils with a language to describe the impact of these experiences. This strengthens the consistent way pupils explore their own spiritual growth. They deeply value the outdoor spirituality area and give powerful accounts of its impact on their spiritual flourishing. The vision guides the school's work with pupils considered to be vulnerable and disadvantaged. Inclusivity is a golden thread through this provision. A range of extra-curricular activities enriches the curriculum. Chill and chat club is a particular favourite with pupils.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of life at Vernham Dean Gillum's. It is a focal point at the end of each day. Staff and pupils look forward to this time together. They value the space to reflect and pray. Pupils joyfully state, 'worship helps you to be a better person'. A fruitful partnership with The Pastrow Benefice significantly enhances the school's worship life. This allows pupils to experience a range of worship styles. Drama, role play and beautiful singing combine with Gospel readings to make worship with the Pastrow team a wholly inspirational occasion. This enriches the spiritual development of all. The pattern of worship is well-established. Each class carries a candle to worship. This is then lit from a candle gifted to year six pupils at their end of year cathedral service. This poignant act gives a real sense of togetherness, awe and wonder. Local clergy provide spiritual nourishment and pastoral care for leaders, governors and pupils. Owing to its isolated location, services in the local church are seen as a pilgrimage. This is a spiritual occasion for staff, pupils and parents. Pupils take an active part in setting up for worship. A working party is in progress to enable pupils to work more closely with leaders in its planning, delivery and evaluation.

Guided by the Christian vision and its associated values, relationships between all members of the community are exceptionally strong. Pupils of all ages behave well and support each other with care. A real sense of being a loving family permeates this very small school. Staff and parents are united in their admiration of the positive impact of the buddy system. Older pupils rise to this responsibility with maturity and vision driven conviction. Their support for the youngest pupils is warm and nurturing. Pupils delight in receiving one of three values teddies when they show compassion, courage or creativity. They are especially proud that one of these symbols, the compassionate rabbit, travelled to Rwanda with an adviser from the diocese. This is a rich source of discussion for pupils on equality. Wellbeing is a priority for leaders and governors. Pupils share powerful examples of how their wellbeing is supported by an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA). Staff appreciate the new headteacher's open door, and solution focused, approach. They value how their continual professional development is being prioritised.

A range of fundraising, charity partnerships and social action projects allows pupils to live out the Christian vision. This is beginning to develop their understanding of their role as agents of change. Pupils challenge their parents on single use plastics and recycling. They are proud of their engagement with local environmental initiatives. These include the Andover Tree Project and the planting of wildflower meadows. This work enhances their sense of justice and responsibility. The

provision of reading books and school supplies for a school in Tanzania extends the impact of the vision globally.

Religious education (RE) is highly valued. Well-developed knowledge of biblical teaching is clearly evident. Pupils give thoughtful examples of how RE lessons help them to develop a range of values that are important for everyday life. They demonstrate an appropriate understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. Pupils are proud of their work. They value the opportunity to extend and develop their thinking as a result of a new approach to timetabling RE lessons. Creative activities that deepen their understanding are particularly enjoyed. Leaders ensure that RE is well-resourced. Monitoring activities by governors ensure lessons are challenging, relevant and diverse. The RE leader acts swiftly to continually develop the effectiveness of the curriculum. Improvements are well received by staff and pupils. For example, recent work on implementing a cycle of inquiry has enhanced pupils' analytical skills. The RE syllabus is complemented by the use of the Understanding Christianity resource. This is used effectively to further deepen pupils' knowledge of Christianity. Well-established links with other local church schools enables teachers to refine and develop their practice. Training is further enhanced through attending termly briefings and personalised sessions led by the diocese that extend the impact of the vision.

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

Information			
Inspection date	30 November 2023	URN	116321
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	41
Diocese	Portsmouth;Winchester		
MAT/Federation			
Interim Headteachers	Sharon Pole and Kirsty Walker		
Chair	Paul Nicoll		
Inspector	Christian McGuinness	No.	2113