

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bramley Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Bramley Lane, Bramley, RG26 5AH
School vision	
<p>At Bramley, we are a compassionate, nurturing school which enables everyone to flourish feeling confident in their uniqueness, being friends with others and showing respect for all, whilst making a positive contribution to God's world.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is at the heart of, and drives all aspects of the work of this church school. • Inclusive collective worship invites those present to reflect on a range of inspiring themes. It is deeply valued by pupils and adults and impacts positively on the life of the school. • The curriculum is a powerful expression of the vision. Rich learning experiences allow pupils to thrive. • Support for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is a strength of the school. This provision is wisely guided by the Christian vision. • A religious education (RE) curriculum shaped by the school context is ensuring pupils flourish in RE lessons. Strong leadership drives the effective curriculum. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharpen the current work on developing spirituality to ensure consistent approaches across the curriculum. This is to extend pupils and adults spiritual growth. • Increase opportunities for pupils to challenge injustice beyond their local community. This is to deepen their understanding of global issues and enhance their impact as agents of change. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The renewed Christian vision and associated values are a golden thread through all aspects of life at Bramley. They are deeply imbedded in policy and practice. An evolving and growing community prompted wise leaders to revise and develop the previous vision. Leaders, governors, staff and pupils articulate with pride their accurate understanding of the vision. Governors know and support the school well. They regularly evaluate the impact of the vision and values. Strategic direction and decision making are vision driven. For example, the provision of a resource base for pupils with SEND and decisions to work collaboratively with other local schools. Leaders and governors are ambitious for the future development of the school and its local partners. This ensures ongoing achievement for all.</p> <p>Leaders are passionate about nurturing the 'Bramley citizen' and growing the 'Bramley learner'. The</p>	

values of compassion, friendship and respect are skilfully woven and mapped into all subjects in the curriculum. This ensures the curriculum strongly reflects the Christian vision. The 'global goals' approach, and initiatives such as diversity days ensure pupils experience a range of well-crafted opportunities to deepen and broaden their views. Governors visit regularly to support and challenge leaders in evaluating the impact of this work. The curriculum is rich with opportunities to grow spiritually. The 'candles, windows, mirrors, doors' approach and spontaneous 'pause for thought' moments enable pupils to reflect and ponder questions. However, whilst the school has a well-considered spirituality handbook, implementation of the agreed approach is inconsistent. This means there are some missed opportunities to enhance the way pupils grow spiritually. Leaders work relentlessly to improve the learning experiences of pupils considered to be vulnerable and disadvantaged. Driven by the Christian vision and values, this provision has a transformative impact on pupils and their families.

Collective worship is central to school life at Bramley. Whether it is whole school, key stage or class, worship is a cherished part of each day. The whole school community values this time together. Pupils enjoy hearing inspiring stories that champion positive change and action. Staff value the spiritual space and thinking time. Strong links with St James' Church significantly enhances the school's worship life. Pupils love walking to church for special services. The 'Open the Book' weekly worship allows pupils to experience a range of worship styles through drama and role play. Pupils delight in being able to 'see and visualise' biblical stories. Reflective areas in each classroom provide a special space for prayer and reflection. Pupils deeply value this opportunity. Impressive reflection books capture pupils' thoughtful response to worship. Classroom baskets with liturgically coloured cloths and candles give a consistent shape to worship. Local clergy provide spiritual and pastoral care for leaders, governors and pupils. Furthermore, clergy support the development of the school's worship practice, for example supporting staff with prayer writing. Pupils take an active part in leading and evaluating worship. Their views shape its continual development. This range of provision enriches pupils' spiritual growth. Leaders are deservedly proud of the school's worship life.

Guided by the Christian vision and values, relationships between members of the community are exceptionally strong. Pupils behave well and support each other lovingly. Despite its size, a real sense of unity and nurture permeates. This is proudly described by all as 'being very Bramley.' A range of pupil leadership roles ensures the community works together and treats one another well. Pupils delight in these opportunities and proudly describe how those chosen must successfully model the school's values. Play leaders guide and nurture younger pupils with warmth and compassion. Recognition for pupils living out the values is given by awarding coloured values wristbands. These are worn with pride. Inclusivity, dignity, and equity is at the heart of the school's work. Pupils on the 'equality and rights advocates group' passionately describe their role as ensuring everyone's voices are heard. Parents share their admiration that 'differences are normalised and celebrated'. Leaders are rightly proud of a recent gold award in recognition of their work to support a minority group within the school community. Wellbeing for all is a priority for leaders and governors. Pupils are well supported by an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA). Staff appreciate the 'impact focused' wellbeing committee and how leaders work actively to support workload reduction. At Bramley, everybody matters.

Leaders ensure that pupils develop an understanding of their place in the world. This is beginning to support their understanding of their role as agents of change. Guided by the Christian vision, pupils act for good causes through a range of fundraising and charity partnerships. They are proud of their engagement with local organisations. These include the Basingstoke Foodbank and a nearby hospice. This work enhances pupils' sense of justice and responsibility. The recently established 'global goals' club is incredibly popular with pupils. This is beginning to broaden their knowledge and enable them to consider how their actions could have a global impact. Leaders act with wisdom

and sensitivity in supporting appropriate charities in response to challenging circumstances within the school community. This has a positive impact for adults and pupils alike.

RE has a high profile within the school and is a priority for leaders. Pupils share their well-developed knowledge of biblical teaching with enthusiasm. They demonstrate an appropriate understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. Pupils give striking examples of how RE lessons help them to develop a range of values and enhance their understanding of the world. They see this as crucial for everyday life. Leaders ensure that RE is a clear expression of the Christian vision. This is articulated as 'growing the Bramley theologian'. Pupils are proud of their work and enjoy their lessons. They value the opportunity to extend and develop their thinking through the use of 'big questions'. Furthermore, the RE syllabus cycle of inquiry enhances pupils' analytical skills. Leaders ensure that RE is well-resourced. Clergy are called upon to support in lessons and with teachers' subject knowledge. Leaders work relentlessly to continually develop the effectiveness of the curriculum, ably supported by diocesan training and guidance. The RE syllabus is complemented by the use of further additional resources. These are used effectively to further deepen pupils' knowledge of Christianity. Emerging links with other local schools enables teachers to refine and develop their practice. Monitoring activities by leaders and governors ensure lessons are well-balanced, relevant and diverse.

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

Information			
Inspection date	25 January 2024	URN	116278
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	455
Diocese	Portsmouth; Winchester		
MAT/Federation			
Executive Head of School	Steve Moore		
Chair	Kelly Taylor		
Inspector	Christian McGuinness	No.	2113