



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Cornerstone Church of England Primary School, Whiteley	
Address	Bluebell Way, Whiteley, PO15 7QE

School vision

Building our Community on Love, Forgiveness and Hope.
Growing an Inspirational Learning Community

Love: “Together, igniting a love of learning”
“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13: 34-35)

Forgiveness: “Encouraging and empowering partnerships”
“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4: 32)

Hope: “Nurturing a Growth Mindset”
“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15: 13)

School strengths

- The school’s vision and values are rooted in biblical text. Leaders are guided by the Christian vision and values, ensuring all they do sustains the distinctive ethos of this growing school.
- School staff actively live out the core school values embedding a meaningful culture of treating others well. This enables all to thrive. Those experiencing times of difficulty receive significant and transformational support.
- The values of love and hope drive pupils to organise projects that bring about change in their community. Pupils lead and act with a clear sense of justice.
- The school curriculum is built on the vision. The Christian values are carefully threaded through learning activities. This means that pupils enjoy a range of enriching and holistic experiences.
- Collective worship is impactful and encourages the spiritual development of pupils and adults. Signing, music, prayer, reflection and the language of love, hope and forgiveness enriches and personalises the acts of collective worship.

Areas for development

- Ensure the religious education (RE) curriculum encourages deep and challenging exploration of beliefs by developing both knowledge and skills. This will enable pupils to confidently articulate their progress and understanding.
- Extend the confidently used language of spiritual moments throughout the taught curriculum. This is to allow purposefully planned opportunities for reflection in the curriculum to further pupils’ spiritual development.

Inspection findings

Cornerstone Church of England Primary School is a rapidly expanding school serving a growing and changing community. Leaders have taken intentional and effective action to ensure the Christian vision and values are a driving force for school development. The values are rooted in bible quotes and expressed through three bible stories: the lost sheep, the lost son and the good Samaritan. Love, hope and forgiveness are deeply embedded at all levels and central to school policy and practice.

School leaders, including governors, have been instrumental in sustaining the Christian ethos of the school as it has grown. They have taken deliberate actions to ensure all feel a sense of belonging and value as they begin their school journey. Governors place a high regard on the school Christian values. Love and hope being key drivers in the decisions taken to open the Rainbow Club morning provision for pupils and families. Through planned visits, the governors actively monitor the effectiveness of the vision and values in school. For example, governor monitoring identified some pupils confusing learning powers and values. This finding inspired discussions that led to developments in the language used to model and explore the school values. Effective systems are in place for governors to use their knowledge to challenge and improve provision.

Pupils flourish because of the broad curriculum shaped by the school vision and values. Thoughtfully planned enquiry questions ignite a love of learning in all pupils. A good example in the history curriculum illustrates this innovative and impactful practice. A topic on crime and punishment enabled pupils to reflect on the values of love, hope and forgiveness. The rich discussions generated by this approach stimulates a love of learning, nurtures growth mindsets and deepens character development. These curriculum enquiry and reflection activities utilise a common shared language of spiritual reflection called 'Five Moments'. Staff and pupils use this approach spontaneously and with confidence to motivate reflective opportunities. However, there are currently limited planned opportunities for the growth of spirituality across the curriculum.

The passion and commitment of staff deeply enhances the school vision becoming a lived reality. There is an impressive determination for all to feel welcomed and valued as the school grows through expansion. This excellent work builds on the school values and has created a meaningful culture where pupils and adults are treated well. Parents identify the positive way in which the values are lived out. As one confirmed, 'there is a family community feel, we experience care and feel listened to'. The 'Family Champions' effectively model the vision. They encourage and empower partnerships with parents and community organisations through their inspirational commitment to love, hope and forgiveness. The highly effective practice of reaching out to those experiencing difficulty is life-giving and life-changing. This provision is transforming the lives of pupils and their families giving them hope for the future.

As a result of the values driven culture, staff also sense a feeling of respect, care and community. School leaders, including governors, have worked to embed effective systems to monitor and support staff wellbeing. Living out the vision, staff access a comprehensive range of development and training opportunities to enable their professional learning. In addition, there is provision for staff spiritual growth through collective worship, church led events and 'Five Moments'. Staff appreciate collective worship, demonstrated by one who stated, 'the sense of joy and belonging during collective worship is powerful'.

Collective worship is a valued part of the school day and enjoyed by pupils who engage with enthusiasm. It is a vibrant experience that makes effective use of prayer, reflection, bible stories and uplifting signing. Pupils and adults participate individually and with confidence. Leaders have

ensured that the school vision-based bible quotes and associated values are integral to collective worship. This inspires a deep understanding of love, hope and forgiveness and how they are lived out in daily school life. Collective worship leaders regularly invite staff to share a spiritual moment. Staff contribute openly, effectively modelling the school language of ‘Five Moments’ to pupils. They plan opportunities for pupils to pause and reflect. Pupils respond thoughtfully and personally, recording their responses in class reflection books. These books celebrate how collective worship inspires acts of kindness at school, home and in the local community. The partnership with Hope Church enriches the opportunities for pupils and adults. Clergy support the planning and leadership of collective worship, engage with RE delivery and warmly invite staff and families to events.

Relationships at all levels are rooted in the school values of love, hope and forgiveness. The school behaviour policy holds the values as key principles and exemplifies how they are each lived out. This enables pupils to enjoy attending Cornerstone, they feel happy and safe and can thrive. The ambition for inspirational behaviours empowers pupils to participate in a range of leadership groups. These are central to school development and give pupils a respected voice in decision making. Pupils take action to bring about improvements in the locality and the wider environment. Learning about global poverty led to pupils establishing the ‘Friday Foodbank’ group. This pupil led group supports and serves the community. They are an inspiring group that encourages others to make a positive change. School staff recognise and value the courageous leadership of pupils. They actively promote and celebrate the desire of pupils to act against inequality, injustice and grow into responsible citizens.

RE has a high profile in school and is well led. Leaders plan thoughtful and supportive training opportunities to further staff development in RE. As a result, staff are confident and knowledgeable in their teaching. Pupils experience an effective RE curriculum. They participate in creative and interesting activities such as exploring the concept of belonging through the revealing of personal objects. This encourages them to fully engage in their learning. Pupils enjoy the subject and speak positively about the thoughtful and challenging discussions that take place. They value the time to share their own thoughts and enjoy opportunities to learn about a religions and worldviews. However, not all pupils confidently articulate their learning progress or deep knowledge and understanding of the themes studied.

The ambitious vision for RE and revised RE portfolio exemplify the knowledgeable and reflective subject leadership. Assessment in RE is innovative, thorough and is used to inform teaching and learning. The bespoke assessment tracking system works alongside the subject portfolio of learning to enable all teachers to understand the curriculum expectations. Pupils make clearly defined progress in RE. They leave the school in Year 6 with a well-developed balance of skills and knowledge across a range of world faiths. Teachers effectively deliver the well-structured curriculum.

The inspection findings indicate that Cornerstone C of E Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	19 January 2024	URN	139548
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	331
Diocese	Portsmouth;Winchester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Tim Clarke		
Chair	Sarah Dow		
Inspector	Stephen Cowdery	No.	2138