

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Clehonger Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Gosmore Road, Clehonger, HR2 9SN
School vision	
<p>Timothy said, 'For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control'. This motivates us to look to the Bible and Jesus's teachings as our guiding light. Paul encouraged Timothy and all to stand strong in their faith and preach with patience. The Lord will stand by our side as we live out our Christian values promoting:</p> <p>Respect, Resilience and Responsibility.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clehonger's Christian vision enables the school to be a place of love. As such, it creates a culture of aspiration and hope, underpinning a forward momentum in school development. This carries the school's work beyond its own walls and out into the community. • The school's chosen Christian values are inextricably woven through the curriculum. This helps pupils to understand and enact the vision. Within their learning, pupils develop self-respect, resilience, love and kindness, fostering a care for others and their world. • Collective worship enhances the emotional and spiritual life of pupils and adults. Its potency arises from the strong partnership between school, governors, church and diocese. • Leaders ensure all staff feel valued and heard. Consequently, staff go out of their way to nurture pupils and their families through difficult times. Care for the individual impacts positively on the wellbeing of all. • Religious education (RE) enables pupils to express views and opinions, developing their ability to think logically and reason well. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pupils' understanding of justice and subsequent social action on a global scale. • Sustain pupils' discussions of big questions in RE. This is to foster a deepening curiosity, knowledge and understanding of world religions and worldviews. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Clehonger Church of England Primary School is a school with an immense heart. The Christian vision is its life-breath, replacing despair and fear with love and courage. This brings strength and unerring hope. It enables staff to navigate adversity and serve the community with grace. The resulting culture, one of harmony and aspiration, is transformational for individuals and families. Governors and leaders regularly review the vision to ensure it continues to resonate powerfully through Clehonger. Christian values are part of the tapestry of this school. They are increasingly strengthening every aspect of its work. Taught explicitly, they enable pupils to gain a good understanding of their inherent messages. Consequently, pupils can relate them to their lived</p>	

experiences. Additional monthly values, such as love and helpfulness, guide everyone. Pupils say the values give a meaningful framework for their lives. This has inspired them to request the addition of the value of peace for the holiday month of August.

The school's curriculum meets the needs of all learners. Leaders take bold decisions to enhance learning by asking pupils what they would like to explore. Consequently, forest school and cookery sessions are timetabled for everyone. Therapeutic provision, through emotion coaching and citizenship work, is also a mainstay, ensuring that pupils are resilient and ready to learn. Planned and unplanned opportunities for awe and wonder abound. The enhancement afternoons, alongside trips and visits, make valuable contributions to pupils' well-being and spiritual development. Strenuous efforts are made to support individuals sensitively, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). As a result, pupils develop confidence. There is an impressive choice of after school clubs, which are well attended. They bring opportunities for pupils to feel successful. Pupils in the gardening club are excited to be making a contemplation area for the school. This experience is developing their resilience, teamwork and determination as well as providing opportunities for reflection. The school's soft federation with the Herefordshire Marches Federation of Academies benefits pupils. They now take part in a stimulating range of sport, dance and drama experiences beyond the school. Expertise is generously shared and, in turn, Clehonger inspires other non-church schools to develop a curriculum based on pupil needs.

Collective worship is an outworking of the Christian vision. It is enriched by a wide group of leaders, including those from the church and diocese. They bring diverse approaches to worship and celebrate the church calendar. Pupils eagerly participate. Bible stories and Jesus's teachings are the guiding light, illuminating the virtue of thinking of others. Everyone is encouraged to see themselves in the story and consider how they would act in different situations. This inspires pupils to live out their Christian values and promotes the school's harmonious ethos. Parents often attend weekly celebration worship, appreciating the impact it has on behaviour and personal development. Pupils are comfortable with prayer and prayerful language is natural to them. They recognise how this helps them to develop an inner calm. Prayerfulness is enhanced through community events, such as Messy Church and the 'Ascension prayer walk' to the local church. Music, candles and prayers contribute to a special sense of peace for all. A newly created 'reflection chair' offers a comfortable place for individual contemplation during the school day. Spirituality within worship has been effectively developed at Clehonger. This has been through regular opportunities for deeper reflection through discussion and prayer or stillness. Pupils and staff thus understand how spirituality can be a presence in their everyday lives. In this way they are developing a growing realisation of who they are and their place in the school community.

The school's Christian vision is rooted in a theology which speaks meaningfully to its community. Accordingly, this vibrant and compassionate school demonstrates its message of love at every turn. Leaders and staff are upheld by and consistently model the vision and values. Families are provided with practical support and a listening ear when needed. This effective practice creates an environment where wellbeing is enhanced. There is a deliberate focus on good mental health for both pupils and adults. It is supported through a designated teacher role. Consequently, pupils, including those disadvantaged and/or vulnerable, are encouraged to succeed. Pupils, staff and families say they feel lucky to be at Clehonger. This is because their views are both sought and considered, and they are treated with compassion and respect. They recognise that the ethos is inclusive and equitable, generating dignity for all.

Positive relationships exist throughout the school and pre-school. Pupils know that staff will always support them. Likewise, they are encouraged to look out and care for one another. From this secure base, they can see that small acts of kindness make a big impact. Christian values of self-control, respect and resilience help build strong friendships. Using the language of values, pupils are

increasingly able to reflect on incidents and resolve issues. They feel positive about helping one another and can balance the concepts of rights and accountability. In becoming ‘responsibility rangers’ pupils create a culture of justice. For example, pupils were recently inspired to give significant aid to a local family in distress. The school regularly supports local, national and global charities. Pupils’ understanding of social action now needs to be developed so that they understand it on a wider global scale.

RE has a high profile in the school. Provision is balanced and well-structured because of purposeful monitoring and evaluation by leaders and governors. Pupils enjoy learning about people’s beliefs, and the ways in which they are expressed and inter-relate. They relish opportunities to consider big questions in Christianity in the certainty that their opinions are valued. Currently some opportunities to deepen a curiosity, knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews are missed within discussion and enrichment activities. Pupils have a growing awareness of Christianity as a global world faith. Through meeting a range of religious representatives, pupils appreciate that faith is a living experience. High-quality professional development through the diocese inspires leaders and governors to develop themes creatively. They therefore ensure the subject is well-resourced with books, artefacts and experiences to enhance pupils’ engagement.

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

Information			
Inspection date	28 February 2024	URN	116795
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	86
Diocese	Hereford		
MAT/Federation	The Herefordshire Marches Federation of Academies		
Head of School	Grace Sage		
Chair	Julie Lunn		
Inspector	Bridget Knight	No.	876