



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Kingskerswell Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Coffinswell Lane, Kingskerswell, Newton Abbot, TQ12 5HN

School vision
<p>Achieve, Believe and Create Together</p> <p>'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a HOPE and a FUTURE.' Jeremiah 29:11</p> <p>We celebrate in the belief that we are all unique and wonderfully made in God's image. We appreciate our talents given to us by God and share these through opportunities to create and achieve, even during adversity. Together, we build a hopeful future for our school community.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has a strong sense of community and teamwork, which is reflected in their Christian vision and values. Staff and pupils support each other. Newcomers from diverse backgrounds are welcomed, giving them hope and a future. • There is a shared understanding about what spirituality means amongst staff and pupils. Children develop their spiritual lives through a wide range of extra-curricular experiences and opportunities. Forest school plays a vital part in this. • Collective worship is varied, well planned and led effectively. Pupils benefit from the chance to reflect and learn together as a whole school community. Singing is joyful, reflecting valuable spiritual experiences for pupils. • Strong pastoral care and wellbeing initiatives help to support pupils and staff. These enable members of the school community to feel safe and flourish. • The religious education (RE) curriculum is relevant and diverse. It is challenging for pupils and enriched by a variety of visitors and experiences. Strong leadership and close links with the local church and community bring the subject to life.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalise governors' systems for gathering information so that they can accurately evaluate the impact of the Christian vision. This is so that their strategic decision making in this area is more evidence driven. • Embed opportunities for spiritual experiences in the taught curriculum. This is to contribute to further growing and enhancing pupils' spiritual lives.
Inspection findings
<p>The school's Christian vision is known and understood by staff and pupils. It drives the work of senior leaders and also individual staff in their classrooms, enabling all to flourish. 'Believe, achieve, create together' inspires pupils to believe in themselves and in their God-given abilities to achieve their best. This is underpinned by Jeremiah 29:11, which inspires leaders to ensure that each and every child has a 'hope and a future'. The school's Christian values are taught and given context</p>



during collective worship. These encourage positive approaches to behaviour management and help to develop pupils' characters and spiritual lives. All of this means that pupils and staff work to enable everyone to grow and flourish, 'together'. School leaders effectively monitor the impact of the vision on daily life in school. Governors are enthusiastic and supportive of the Christian ethos of the school. However, they are not able to clearly articulate the impact of the vision. Thus, their strategic decision making in this area is not always evidence based.

The Christian vision underpins the curriculum and extra-curricular offer at this school. Pupils work well together to solve problems and difficulties in their work. Staff encourage pupils to adopt effective strategies to achieve their best. Curriculum topics are enriched by working outside in the forest school area. Also, visitors make subjects come alive by speaking about their experiences. Pupils are given hope for their futures by explanations of why they study a particular topic, linked to the world of work. There are a wide range of sports and arts-based extra-curricular clubs and activities. These contribute well to pupils' spiritual development, allowing them to work and create together in an informal setting. Forest school plays a very important role in the curriculum. It gives pupils valuable opportunities to learn about the environment around them. It also gives them time and space to be quiet and reflect, and to acknowledge the wonders of the natural world. Pupils highly value these experiences. As a result, they flourish and develop well in their spiritual lives and are able to articulate their own spiritual experiences. Teachers take some opportunities to inspire and motivate pupils in their lessons, giving them space to think and reflect. However, opportunities for fuller spiritual experiences in the the formal, taught curriculum are less well developed.

Collective worship is well planned and led. Worship themes and teaching are inspired by the Christian values of the school. This effective strategy means that pupils understand the values very well. They rightly articulate how they apply them to their own lives and behaviour in school. This results in an ethos of respect and kindness to others. There is good behaviour in class and effective reconciliation after incidents of poor behaviour. In this way, worship inspires pupil's character and spiritual development. It has a positive impact on the daily life of the school. As a result of the strong partnership with the local parish church, collective worship is varied. Visits from church leaders and the 'open the book' team enrich the experience of pupils. Parents are invited to festivals and events such as remembrance day in the church building. At these services, pupils take an active part and become part of the whole village community. Worship in school is invitational with pupils invited to reflect or to pray as appropriate to them. Singing is joyful and enjoyed by all. Weekly classroom-based worship is a valuable chance for pupils to discuss questions of meaning. They are able to think and reflect in a more intimate setting. Pupils enjoy this opportunity, and it contributes well to their spiritual growth.

Pastoral care and support of pupils and staff is a strength of this school. Pupils take part in activities during mental health week, helping them to stay mentally healthy. Staff feel highly supported by school leaders. They rightly say that strong teamwork enriches their wellbeing, and allows them to be effective in their roles. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are welcomed and supported at this school. They are given a tailored curriculum if needed, and in-classroom help as required. They are included in all activities, and are embraced by the whole school community. Many local families have chosen to send their child to this school because of the excellent support given to pupils with SEND.

Pupils are empowered by being members of the school council, ethos group and eco group which all make a difference to daily school life. This allows pupils to become effective agents of change. Pupils are also involved in community action in the village including litter picking, supporting a dementia café and resourcing the local food bank. These activities effectively utilise their talents to support others, in line with their Christian vision. Pupils choose which charities the school will support, and often initiate fund-raising activities such as cake sales. In this way, pupils become

effective advocates for justice and change in their world.

RE is very well led and resourced. It is given appropriate priority in the timetable, and pupils enjoy their lessons. The curriculum is rich and varied, and challenges pupils. They are confident to discuss and debate their own views and those of a variety of faiths and worldviews. The curriculum is enriched by visitors from different cultures coming to speak to the children about their beliefs and experiences. There is a close partnership with the parish church. This means that pupils benefit from visiting and learning about the building and the role of church leaders. Subject leaders support teachers by offering quality training, resources and advice. This ensures that the RE curriculum is accurate and relevant for all pupils.

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

Information			
Inspection date	8 February 2024	URN	113398
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	361
Diocese	Exeter		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Rachel Miller		
Chair	Sarah McDonald and Matthew Loosemore		
Inspector	Judith Larrington	No.	948