

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Winsley Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Tyning Road, Winsley, Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 2JN

School vision

‘Some seed fell on the good earth and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.’ **Matthew 13:8**

Our vision is to be an exceptional church school committed to investing in young lives. A school where staff and governors work in partnership with parents to provide a caring, stimulating environment rooted in Christian values; a school with high expectations where all are valued and nurtured as individuals because they are unique and loved by God.

School strengths

- Leaders, including those at trust level, give high priority to the professional development of staff. As a result, staff are empowered to develop so that they support pupils through inspirational learning opportunities.
- Leaders are determined that the ‘good earth’ vision extends beyond the gates of the school. The bold actions of leaders mean that the school is now the community hub for the village.
- Religious Education (RE) is given a high priority. It is carefully planned, and staff are well trained. Pupils build a secure knowledge of a range of faiths and world views.
- Collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is inclusive in its nature, follows Anglican traditions and prepares the good soil for what is to come.
- The school and the trust work exceptionally well together. Their symbiotic relationship means that each is stronger because of the other. This is clearly recognised and celebrated by all stake holders.

Areas for development

- Establish the vision statement with people who are new to the school. This will ensure the Christian vision is more securely known across the school community.

Inspection findings

Winsley is a school that is committed to investing in the welfare of its students and staff. Its vision, to create good earth, drives the focus on wellbeing. Students and adults flourish at Winsley because their happiness is a priority.

The wellbeing of staff is prioritised by leaders within school and the trust. Staff know they will always be supported by leaders, who encourage them to do 'what is right for them'. The strong relationships with the local parish church, and its clergy greatly enhances this provision. Staff speak of coming up against 'rocky times' and school being a 'safe haven'. One member of staff reflected 'this is the place where I breathe' whilst another noted 'I grow through this school'.

Stakeholders regularly revisit the vision statement, to ensure it is still relevant to local needs. This is key to leaders, who believe a vision must be 'lived and not laminated.' Leaders, staff, and governors can explain the vision eloquently and dig down into its deeper meaning. Pupils and parents understand the meaning behind the vision, but some find it difficult to speak confidently about the Christian roots. This is specific to early years and key stage 1, where there has been less time for the vision to embed. However, they can confidently discuss the values of wisdom, kindness and courage.

Leaders of both the school and trust ensure that they nurture 'the good earth' by providing highly valued opportunities for professional development. The quality learning opportunities ensure that all staff are confident in carrying out their roles. Staff rightly recognise that leaders 'invest in our learning as much as that of the children'.

Winsley gives high importance to spiritual development, recognising that it is not the same as RE or collective worship. Leaders have developed a clear and effective shared understanding of spirituality. This means that all stakeholders know what spiritual flourishing looks like. The pupils identify areas where they can go to 'be quiet and reflect'. Pupils value being able to do this at their own direction and know the clear rules for using these areas.

Pupils recognise they can be agents of change through projects such as Wild Winsley. Which has been set up as a very literal way for pupils to plant 'seeds on good earth'. Pupils value being involved with gardening and the development of the school grounds. They are keen to speak about planting hedging around the grounds and watching it grow.

Every classroom contains a vibrant reflection area where adults and children have added their own reflection. Opportunities such as this, enhance the spirituality at Winsley School. A reflection area in key stage 1 includes the comment 'I will help baby turtles to the sea'. Demonstrating that even the youngest pupils are aware they have responsibilities towards the environment.

Worship is integral at Winsley, it is an inclusive, joyful experience, with an invitation to share prayer and to give thanks. This is because of the careful planning that takes place. Friday worship is open to family and friends, who are as involved as the pupils and staff. Pre-school siblings participate, whilst being carefully looked after by the older pupils. This leads to pupils and adults flourishing spiritually in a family focused environment. It further demonstrates 'a school where staff and governors work in partnership with parents'.

Collective worship takes place every day and allows the pupils to discuss the week's message in an age-appropriate way. Each class has a worship floor-book, which they use to further develop their thoughts relating to the 'big question' and to add their own prayers and reflections. The partnership with the parish church enhances all aspects of collective worship and supports the spiritual flourishing of staff and pupils.

This planned approach to worship has enabled the pupils to develop their thinking and to ask deeper questions. They do not shy away from the big questions and recent reflections include 'Is it ever OK to lie?' and 'What happens when you die?' Monitoring of worship identifies that the vision has developed pupils into deeper thinkers who ask more challenging questions. Through the impact of worship, pupils can articulate the difficulties some people may face and how they can help them.

The Christian vision supports pupils to think about issues of justice. They recognise that not everybody has equal chances. The focus that leaders place on justice and responsibility inspires pupils to help others. The manager of the local foodbank came to Harvest Festival to tell the pupils what would happen to their donations. Pupils learnt that the local community rely on these donations every week, including some members of the school staff. This inspired a group of pupils to volunteer at the foodbank, with their families in their own time.

Pupils and staff highly value the partnership between Winsley School and Dorothy House, a local hospice. This relationship has grown directly from the vision 'all are valued and nurtured as individuals because they are unique and loved by God'. The partnership offers pupils a chance to work with and for the patients. Enabling pupils to develop spiritually, enhancing their lives and those of the residents. The opportunity to discuss death and end of life care has enabled pupils to develop a greater understanding of life.

The clear intentions of the vision result in a passion to support others. Pupils recognise that some of their peers need more help than others and they understand the difference between equality and equity. They are eager to discuss diversity and speak of how they 'love' learning about diversity at school. Leaders ensure that a diverse curriculum prepares pupils to be ready for life outside of this small, rural school.

RE is given a high priority at Winsley. This ensures pupils acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and world faiths. Effective planning ensures pupils leave Winsley knowing that Christianity is a global faith. Leaders enable learners to explore a variety of faiths. Throughout the school pupils learn about a range of faiths and world views. This means they can discuss the similarities between a range of holy texts. Demonstrating a depth of knowledge and understanding of a range of religions. Pupils speak confidently about what they have learnt and are assured in discussing their own beliefs. Best practice is shared between the schools within the trust, which includes five more church schools.

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

Pupil Information			
Inspection date	01 March 2024	URN	126371
VA/VC/Academy	VC	Pupils on roll	124
Diocese	Salisbury		
MAT/Federation	Palladian Academy Trust		

Headteacher	Ross Wolverson (Head of School) Becky Wilson (Executive Head Teacher)		
Chair	Jane West		
Inspector	Kaye Healy	No.	C23/24