

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>St Peter's Church of England First School</b>	
<b>Address</b>	Doniford Rd, Williton, Taunton TA4 4SF

### School vision

At St Peter's, we believe that a happy child is a successful one.

Our vision to 'love, learn, flourish', and our Christian Values are central to all that we do, and are based on St Paul's teaching 'Let all that you do be done in love'.

We ensure our children are nurtured as individuals to shine brightly with confidence to be the best version of themselves and to develop skills, knowledge, and responsibilities for life.  
And everything you do must be done in love.

### School strengths

- The school provides strong pastoral care, based on values derived from its Christian vision. This leads to positive support for the mental and spiritual health of pupils and staff. This care extends to families and the wider community.
- Collective worship is a strong feature of the school. This contributes to the spiritual development of pupils and adults.
- The school makes effective provision to meet the needs of all learners including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This has a significant impact on the academic and personal development of pupils.
- The Christian vision of the school drives character development. This is evident in the distinct sense of moral and spiritual purpose.
- The curriculum meets the needs of the pupils and extends their aspirations through a substantial extracurricular offer. This allows pupils the freedom to develop their own worldview.

### Areas for development

- Ensure pupils have a wider and more secure understanding of religions and worldviews in order to extend their knowledge of global diversity.
- Promote and embed a stronger connection between the values of the school and their origins. This is to ensure all members of the school community have a deeper understanding of the Christian basis of the vision.
- Develop robust systems to monitor the work of the school as a Church school. This is to inform future strategic development.

## Inspection findings

The school has a clear Christian vision. The vision is widely understood by pupils and adults in the school. The clear vision focused on 'love, learn, flourish' means pupils are nurtured and well cared for. The school fosters a vision of everyone understanding that they are loved and cherished as a child of God. Older pupils care well for younger children. Pupils are confident that, when needed, the adults within school will help and support them. They know their voice will be heard if there are disagreements, and they will be treated fairly. Regular discussions about significant news stories ensure the pupils develop their own worldview and understand events across the world. Parents appreciate their children being given space to discuss significant life events, such as a bereavement, in a Christian context. Pupils take responsibility within their community by, for example, beach cleaning. The school achieves its aim to build confidence in its pupils, and the impact of this work extends significantly beyond academic success. However, there is insufficient sense of future direction as a Church school in the development plan.

The vision of the school is evident in the design of the school's curriculum. It reflects the school's vision to encourage pupils to flourish through their learning. The school's acceptance and inclusion of all extends beyond the curriculum to an extensive range of extracurricular opportunities. This provision gives pupils a broader view of the world. Pupils take the opportunity to learn new skills and benefit from additional support from school staff. The school lives out its vision to ensure children know they are loved through the curriculum provision.

Older pupils support their peers and younger pupils extremely well, living out the school's vision to put love at the heart of the school's work. Senior pupils are trained as pupil chaplains and are given distinctive badges to highlight their role. These pupils are proactive in ensuring that the school's Prayer Shed is used respectfully. The Prayer Shed provides a peaceful space in a busy playground. It ensures that pupils who want to be reflective have somewhere to go, and their need to express their spirituality is valued. The pupil chaplains, and the adults supporting them, ensure that pupils who need support are well cared for.

The collective worship at St Peter's is well planned and well delivered. Pupils and adults talk enthusiastically about their experiences of worship. They can recall meaningful and memorable times of worship. This means that it has a lasting impact on the pupils and adults in the school. The 'Open the Book' sessions are led by members of the local church. These sessions allow pupils to develop a deep familiarity with key Bible stories. Good planning ensures the school's collective worship links with this learning. Therefore, worship demonstrates to the pupils how contemporary Christians apply the teachings of ancient texts to their modern lives. The pupils approach worship respectfully. Worship takes place when pupils are most likely to appreciate space for reflection, and at an unhurried time in the school day. As a result, worship is meaningful to pupils and adults. It provides a special time for the whole school community to focus on their individual and collective spiritual development. Collective worship is supported by the local vicar and church. This input enriches and deepens the experience for pupils and adults and broadens the invitation to worship to families and the wider community.

The school's vision leads to the school being a place where adults and pupils know they are loved. Parents praise the school for making their children feel safe and secure. Staff described feeling appreciated and describe St Peter's Church of England First School as a 'lovely place to work'. Members of staff describe the leaders of the school as valuing and encouraging other colleagues. Trustees' actions show a deliberate focus on staff wellbeing as part of Beacon Trust's support of the school. The weekly awards assembly celebrates the 'Guiding Hand' principles of the school and rewards pupils for personifying these values. This means that pupils are valued as individuals and their emotional development, spiritual wellbeing and mental health is cared for. Pupils are respected by the adults in the school and encouraged to flourish.

This school fosters a culture that promotes a sense of responsibility in its pupils. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions, and how they impact on others. Pupils know that they are expected to show

kindness and respect to each other, as part of the school's values. Staff speak of the school's ethos as being like that of a family, where everyone is included. School leaders articulate strategies to ensure that pupils feel they are treated fairly when decisions are made. As a result, pupils live well together and there are very effective strategies in place to provide support if their behaviour falls below the expected standard. Reconciliation and forgiveness are cornerstones of the behaviour policy. Leaders recognise that vulnerability extends beyond pupils with SEND or those in receipt of free school meals. Time is always given for pupils to think about their actions and what they need to do better. Forest School provision ensures that the pupils understand the need to care for the world around them. The curriculum gives pupils knowledge and understanding of justice and caring for others. The pupils link this expectation to the 'guiding hand of St Peter's'. The participation in the Archie Project teaches pupils about the impact of dementia and gives the pupils opportunities to work alongside older people. This ensures pupils flourish by using their talents to promote the interests of others.

The teaching of religious education (RE) is still at an early stage of development. RE is not yet taught in a coherent or impactful way. There is little evidence that teaching builds effectively on prior learning. This means that the pupils do not have a sufficiently developed understanding of different worldviews and religions other than Christianity. The school is implementing a different specification this academic year, which better meets the needs of the pupils. A leader for RE has been recently appointed and she ensures that staff are developing their confidence to deliver this new curriculum. RE is valued by school and trust leaders, and there are opportunities for collaboration with other schools to develop good practice. The school uses its partnership with the diocese to access good quality teacher training. This is ensuring improvement strategies are in place for the delivery of this subject.

The inspection findings indicate that St Peter's Church of England First School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	26 March 2024	URN	140645
VA/VC/Academy	Academy (inspected as VC)	Pupils on roll	111
Diocese	Bath and Wells		
MAT/Federation	Beacon Education Trust		
Headteacher	Maida White		
Chair	Hayley Lake		
Inspector	Gill Jackson	No.	C.23/24