



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

<b>St Michael's Church of England Junior Church School, Bath</b>	
Address	Newton Road, Twerton, Bath, BA2 1RW

<b>School vision</b>
<p>Ready for life now and in the future.</p> <p>Working with our community and church to ensure our children are spiritually, emotionally, and educationally equipped for life now and in the future.</p> <p>Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you”, says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”</p>
<b>School strengths</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An embedded Christian vision, championed and articulated at all levels, drives the strategic direction of the school. Leaders provide opportunities for all to be ready for life now and in the future.</li> <li>• The vision is at the heart of the curriculum that provides rich learning experiences for all. Pupils ask questions of themselves and the world around them.</li> <li>• Collective worship is prioritised and timetabled as an integral part of the school day. It enhances the emotional and spiritual life of pupils and adults, enabling them to flourish.</li> <li>• Relationships are strong within the school community. Caring and supportive partnerships are at the heart of St Michael's with wellbeing prioritised.</li> <li>• Strong leadership in religious education (RE) ensures the subject has a high profile. Learning is engaging as it enables pupils to ask important questions and express their views.</li> </ul>
<b>Areas for development</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further embed the understanding of spirituality within the school. This is to deepen the spiritual experiences offered to all.</li> <li>• Strengthen the range of opportunities for pupils to engage with social action. This is to enable them to widen the positive impact they have on others.</li> </ul>
<b>Inspection findings</b>
<p>St Michael's Christian vision is fully embedded into school life. It flows through the school, driven by staff and leaders enabling pupils to flourish. The inclusive approach addresses the needs of pupils, ensuring they are valued. The vision, underpinned by Jeremiah 29:11, inspires others to ensure pupils are equipped for life now and in the future. Staff liken it to a 'River of Life' transforming the school, church, and local community. Pupils behave well. They are supportive, inclusive, kind and caring towards one another. The vision helps them to learn, have hope and develop a future. Staff know each pupil well and are deeply committed to ensuring individuals have their needs met. St Michael's is championed as a place where everyone is there for one another.</p> <p>Staff are proud to be part of their local community and church. They champion their roles in</p>

equipping pupils for life. The school's Christian vision is known and understood by all. It is a living reality driving day to day life. Bath and Wells multi-academy trust and governors are fully supportive of the vision. They work effectively with leaders to support pupils and their families to flourish. As a result of this, the governors are involved and fully informed. They make regular visits to the school, making fair and accurate judgements. Consequently, decisions are based on how best to serve the needs of the community. The school's vision and its impact is championed by all. It enables the pupils to walk more proudly with greater confidence.

School leaders and teachers have developed learning experiences that benefit the community. Decisions are underpinned by the vision, developing resilience to fill pupils with hope for their future aspirations. Associated values including wisdom, forgiveness, thankfulness, compassion, friendship and trust run throughout daily life. Pupils articulate the values proudly. They help them to make strong relationships and be part of a better school. Leaders offer a wide range of opportunities for all to flourish. These include outdoor learning, den-making, tree-climbing, a mud kitchen and a repurposed play bus. A range of music and sport activities as well as trips, are provided which are appreciated by pupils. The school is proud to have sung for the Queen at Bath Abbey. These opportunities create a culture in which pupil's wellbeing is enhanced. They explore spirituality through awe and wonder, asking questions in a range of activities. The sanctuary room and school chaplain provide a highly valued space to think, reflect and pray. There is an agreed understanding of spirituality. However, embedded rich spiritual experiences are at the early stages of development.

Collective worship is an integral part of the school day. It is prioritised and timetabled to ensure all can come together for prayer, reflection, and celebration. It is inclusive providing opportunities for pupils to flourish through curiosity, questioning and an understanding of each other. Collective worship is invitational and valued by all. Pupils are keen to discuss and share their reflections with staff. Spirituality is developed through moments of prayer, song, and stillness. Time is prioritised to reflect on the meaning of the Christian vision and values. Collective worship inspires pupils to look beyond themselves, share responses and think about big questions. It is a time to reflect, examine and learn about themselves and the world around them. Collective worship is enriched by strong partnerships with the local church. Pupils enthusiastically share how the chaplaincy crew works to plan and lead worship. Pupils reflect on how it motivates them to live the values and build better relationships with each other.

A wide range of strong partnerships are actively fostered by leaders serving the school community well. Parents appreciate the additional support and guidance that is provided. A belief in the importance of supportive, caring relationships is central and wellbeing is prioritised. Pupils treat each other with dignity demonstrating reconciliation, friendship, empathy and forgiveness. Strong involvement from the local church community supports the school. Initiatives, like the chaplain and therapy dog, make a positive difference to the mental health of pupils and staff. Partnerships such as 'St John's Foundation' and 'the Primary Empowerment Project', support St Michael's community, enriching the lives of the pupils. This effectively enhances learning, attendance and opportunities to take part in wider activities.

Leaders understand the context of their school. They provide opportunities for pupils to make choices and deal with challenges of life effectively. Pupils' moral and social development, underpinned by the vision, is a high priority. Pupils understand and value the role and responsibilities they have when supporting others within the local community. Each class has a charity they have chosen and fundraise for throughout the year. There are regular visits to local care homes and experiences like the 'mini police'. All inspire opportunities to reflect on social injustice in the community and nationally. However, pupils have not fully developed their understanding of how they can impact social action at a global level.

RE enables pupils to thrive through learning opportunities filled with key religious and philosophical questions. The syllabus is enhanced with specialist resources. This strengthens the depth of pupils' knowledge. Bespoke visitors, trips to places of faith and creative tasks enrich their learning. RE is well sequenced, with a wide range of faiths and worldviews. It is carefully planned to allow pupils to develop a clear awareness of Christianity as a living and world faith. They understand the importance of learning about religions and are aware of similarities between them. The emphasis on discussion enables them to talk about their own faith and that of the beliefs of others. Pupils feel safe and respected. They value RE and talk with confidence. Consequently pupils flourish in their RE learning.

A true sense of belonging and looking after one another reverberates through all that the school does. It is seen in the genuine care shown by leaders and staff for the community it serves.

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

Information			
Inspection date	20 March 2024	URN	145716
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	142
Diocese	Bath & Wells		
MAT/Federation	BWMAT (Bath Hub)		
Executive Headteacher	Clare Greene		
Chair	Richard White		
Inspector	Rhian Cockwell	No.	2219