

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

| St Saviour's Church of England VA Primary School, Herne Hill | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Address | Herne Hill Road, London, SE24 0AY |

School vision

Jesus said, 'I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)
Living, learning, loving: flourishing in God's world, in God's way.

School strengths

- The school's Christian vision is clear and powerful. The 'fruit of the spirit' shape actions and choices within St Saviour's.
- The leadership of the school lives and models the Christian vision with a clear purpose and commitment to all pupils.
- Collective worship is inspirational and forms a bedrock for each day.
- The curriculum for religious education (RE) is bold, ambitious and creative. Changes introduced this year have been embedded quickly and effectively.
- Relationships across the school are based on trust and respect. Pupils understand the value of their community and their connections with others.

Areas for development

- Embed changes in the RE curriculum with a focus on precise and consistent assessment which will drive secure progress for pupils.
- Develop further opportunities for pupils to be conscious advocates for justice.
- Consider ways in which experiences beyond the classroom can nurture the spiritual development of pupils and staff.

Inspection findings

St Saviour's Church of England Primary School is a community in which pupils flourish. The school's Christian vision is deeply embedded and clearly understood by pupils, staff and parents. The school's leadership is visionary and purposeful. Recent changes have had swift and significant impact. There is excitement and determination about the journey ahead. This is rooted in the school's Christian vision for all: 'Living, learning, loving: flourishing in God's world, in God's way'. This is lived out through a deep understanding of biblical teaching on the 'fruit of the spirit'. School leaders are supported by a strong team of governors, whose commitment to the school is unwavering. They know the school well. Their work with staff offers challenge and supports the future direction of the school.

The curriculum is driven by the school's vision. It is ambitious, challenging pupils to develop their ability to think critically. The focus on cultural heritage means that it is relevant to the lives of this diverse community. As a result, pupils are engaged and enthused in their learning. Pupils flourish beyond the classroom experiencing a range of extra-curricular opportunities and trips. This is

exemplified in enthusiasm about sporting success, which builds confidence and aspiration. In other events, Year 6 pupils are excited about the service for leavers at Southwark Cathedral. Opportunities for spiritual development are mapped through the curriculum, for example in how pupils are invited to respond to stories. St Saviour's is a school where all are known as individuals. Support for those with special educational needs and those from disadvantaged backgrounds is personalised and targeted. High expectations and thoughtful provision ensure that they thrive. Very effective use is made of the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. Consequently, pupils are given the tools to develop the skills to reflect on their feelings and those of others. The establishment of a partnership with two local primary schools has been very productive. It is enabling staff to develop good practice and helping with curriculum development.

Collective worship gives purpose to each school day. Some pupils explain enthusiastically that it helps them to build their relationship with God. For others, it helps them explore how the 'fruit of the spirit' is embraced in their relationships with their peers. Pupil 'faith leaders' are proud of their responsibility within the school. Their involvement makes worship engaging. They are excellent role models, inspiring younger pupils to lead worship. Collective worship is carefully planned, with themes such as generosity and kindness. These are relevant, aspirational and precisely linked to the vision. As a result, pupils are inspired to be kind to each other, creating a happy school environment. Parents enjoy the weekly celebration assemblies. This helps them to share the joy of pupils celebrating their achievements. Prayer guides and binds this community at every point in its work. Prayer tables in classrooms are effectively used as spaces where pupils find and appreciate time for reflection and stillness. The value pupils place on reflection has led them to set up prayer stations in communal areas. Prayers used to start and end each day give pupils moments of calm. It also helps them to think about their choices and subsequent actions. There are very strong links with two churches in the local parish. Regular worship at each one enables pupils to gain experience of different styles of Anglican traditions. The school is effectively supported by local clergy. They assist school leaders, including governors, in developing the school vision, as well as leading worship. Furthermore, they sustain strong relationships with parents and carers because of their approachability. This relationship helps all pupils and staff to see themselves as part of a wider Christian community.

Driven by the school's Christian vision, staff ensure pupils feel valued as individuals. Relationships are rooted in trust and respect. Staff are eager to go 'above and beyond' to ensure every child is able to thrive. This means that pupils enjoy coming to school and they feel safe and happy. Pupils talk with excitement and aspiration about their personal ambitions and about their desire to serve others. This helps create a community that seeks the common good of all. Children are praised and celebrated as individuals through frequent communication between staff and parents. In this way, the school is living its vision and building connections with families. Leaders evaluate the professional practice of all staff with care and an emphasis on delivering excellent professional training. Together with personal support during times of challenge, staff feel valued and encouraged at St Saviour's.

This community lives and works together as a team. Staff and pupils talk about the importance of looking after and serving others. In this way everyone is helped to 'flourish in God's world'. Pupils understand and articulate how St Paul's teaching on the 'fruit of the spirit' inspires and drives everyday life. They know this fosters kind and caring friendships. Older pupils look after those in younger year groups, for example during playtimes. Involvement in activities to support local charities gives them confidence that they can make positive change in the world. The pride that they feel makes them enthusiastic about helping others beyond the school. Pupils are proud of the ways in which they support local charities. They talk with passion about the importance of helping others and are thoughtful in their advocacy for those in need of help. The links with local charities, including the Brixton Soup Kitchen, reflect the school's commitment to serving its wider community.

At present, there is a lack of breadth in opportunities to understand injustice and subsequent social action in the wider world.

Significant developments have been made in the RE curriculum, which is well-planned and creative. It has been planned in detail and engages pupils in key themes. Pupils make good progress across all year groups. There are clear links with English and with art, allowing pupils to express and develop their ideas. Pupils are encouraged to contribute to discussion based on their own personal and faith experiences. There has been significant support from the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education which has built staff confidence and expertise. As a result, RE lessons are consistently engaging and inspiring. Pupils take part in their learning with enthusiasm and are able to explore challenging concepts. They are taught how to listen to others and to develop their ideas. In this way, they are able to reflect on their learning and its application in their own lives. Thoughtful questioning is used in lessons to help pupils gain a deep appreciation of biblical texts. For example, a lesson with a Year 2 class linked pupils' own ideas about what betrayal meant with the story of Judas' betrayal of Jesus. Pupils are assessed regularly and given feedback that supports further progress. Staff are refining assessment procedures so that it guides pupils to improve their work and deepen their understanding of key themes.

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

| Information | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------|
| Inspection date | 6 March 2024 | URN | 100620 |
| VC/VA/Academy | Voluntary aided | Pupils on roll | 182 |
| Diocese | Southwark | | |
| Head of School | Amy Couch | | |
| Chair | Mary Ollard | | |
| Inspector | Elisabeth Stevenson | No. | 942 |