

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Long Sutton Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Long Sutton, Langport, TA10 9NT

School vision

‘Learn to love and love to learn’

Our school is an integral part of our village and everyone within this community is valued and nurtured as part of our school family and God’s family. Christian teaching and values are at the heart of all we do, to ensure that we develop well-motivated, independent, happy children who aspire to achieve their best in all they do, respecting and valuing themselves and others.

‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself’ Matthew 22:39

School strengths

- The Christian vision underpins school life enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- Inspired by the vision, the school’s curriculum and extra-curricular provision, provide a holistic education. This encourages pupils to aspire to be the best that they can be.
- Spiritual development is successfully encouraged through inspirational collective worship, the curriculum and the daily life of the school. It enriches the lives of those who both learn and work at Long Sutton.
- The school, in line with its Christian vision, has a deeply caring ethos based on Christian love. Relationships between pupils, adults and partners are enhanced by this.
- Religious education (RE) supports the delivery of the vision and is of high quality. It supports pupils to gain knowledge about a range of religions and world views fostering respect for others.

Areas for development

- Encourage pupil-led social action in response to injustice to support pupils’ understanding of their potential impact on the world.

Inspection findings

Long Sutton Primary School’s Christian vision is based on love and rooted in St Matthew’s gospel. The vision underpins the daily life of the school and drives leaders’ decisions. Governors know the school and are very involved in school life. Their monitoring is thorough and informs decision-making. The vision is lived out through the school’s Christian values of thankfulness, resilience, compassion, hope and love. Pupils and staff constantly refer to these values. As a result, pupils are aspirational to be the best that they can be in their work and relationships. Parents are proud of the school which sits at the heart of its local community. As such, pupils, staff, governors, parents and the community work together to support the school. This is exemplified by the number of volunteers who support learning. This generates an environment that values individual contributions and treats each one with care and respect. The school benefits from close working with the diocese and partner schools. This enriches the professional development of staff and impacts on pupil learning.

Leaders successfully aim to deliver a holistic education for pupils. In line with the vision, pupils are seen as children of God and as valued individuals. They therefore deserve and receive the best that the school can provide. The school's curriculum and extra-curricular offer support an exciting variety of learning opportunities. Ballet, cooking and cathedral visits make learning special and address pupils' preferred learning styles, encouraging all to achieve. Spiritual development is an intrinsic part of the curriculum. Opportunities for pupils to experience awe and wonder moments, through which they explore and develop their personal spirituality, abound. These include spontaneous moments, such as watching the moon rise, as well as planned opportunities woven into the curriculum, notably in the arts. Singing is a particular strength. Extensive school grounds provide alternative opportunities for activities to enrich learning, such as swimming and gardening. Pupils are enabled to develop imagination and co-operation through the nurture of creative play. Personalised support is in place for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or vulnerable pupils. A range of initiatives is used to support learning needs and all staff have received emotion coaching. This equips them with a range of strategies when dealing with emotional and behavioural needs. As a result, pupils are able to access their learning readily.

Pupils develop a love of learning through the curriculum. Its design and content ensure that pupils are engaged and behave well. Behaviour promises in place of rules and restorative approaches to poor behaviour choices promote a positive learning environment. The school celebrates successes together, with intrinsic rewards. Pupils say this makes them feel good. The atmosphere of the school is inclusive and all new pupils and staff are welcomed straight away. Pupils feel happy and safe in school because staff listen to them and help them. Staff are effective role models to pupils, and so, in line with the vision, everyone is encouraged to 'love your neighbour'. The school has a caring culture where all are encouraged to live together well. Pupils value and respect each other's differences and know how to support each other's needs. They help each other everywhere, from the classroom to the sports field, understanding and respecting their differences. They say that their behaviour is inspired by the story of the good Samaritan. Older pupils become buddies for younger pupils, some also becoming wellbeing ambassadors in order to give further support to peers. Pupil voice is strong with the school council contributing to addressing school issues and building community links. Staff also support each other and refer to school as their second family. Promoting good mental health and wellbeing in staff is very important to leaders. Staff say they feel supported, listened to and nurtured. Fulfilling the school's vision, pupils and staff love to learn and work at Long Sutton.

Daily collective worship is central to the life of the school. A rolling programme of themes based on the school's values, including Christian festivals, supports inclusive, invitational and inspirational worship. Worship has a marked impact on the school. It draws the school together, as one younger pupil said, 'lots of tiny little hearts can make one big heart.' Spirituality is an essential part of collective worship. Pupils and staff enjoy times of stillness, reflection and prayer. Pupils are encouraged to recognise 'wow' moments and to discuss what they see and feel. This helps them to reflect upon, and share, special moments. Singing of religious songs is enthusiastic, yet meaningful, drawing the school community together. A close partnership with the parish church leads to reciprocal visits between school and church. The church supports with 'Open the Book' and clergy-led worship in school. This enriches the variety of the worship experience offered. Parents and friends join pupils for worship in church for Christian festivals. This ensures that these are special family events. Pupils regularly plan and lead collective worship themselves. They enjoy this and say it helps them to empathise with the Bible characters and follow their examples. Opportunities for prayer and reflection continue outside worship and pupils feel it gives them the chance to reflect and talk to God. Collective worship inspires pupils to be aware of, and respond to, local needs and national charities. They are keen to be involved in issues beyond the local area. For example, they recognise the beauty of God's world and want to help to protect it.



RE successfully supports the delivery of the vision. It is treated as a core subject and the well-constructed spiral curriculum builds on prior knowledge. Alongside Christianity, it includes the recognition of different faiths and develops an awareness of diversity. Pupils understand this and respect the rights of other people to hold alternative views to their own. RE teaching is good. Staff are well trained and confident, so that pupils make better than expected progress. The curriculum is appropriately differentiated to allow access for all and is well-resourced. Pupils enjoy RE in safe surroundings where they can express themselves and discuss their personal thoughts. Godly play is a favourite with younger pupils inspiring deep thinking and reflection on Bible stories. Older pupils confidently participate in discussion. They address big questions such as, 'Is there really a God?' Many join the 'Society for Deeper Thinking' meeting weekly to engage in further philosophical discussion and debate. This helps pupils to refine their thinking and reasoning skills whilst exploring their personal spirituality.

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

Information			
Inspection date	19 June 2024	URN	123835
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	99
Diocese	Bath & Wells		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Elizabeth Reynolds		
Chair	Mike Hampson		
Inspector	Alison Appleyard	No.	877