

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's, Gosport Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Grove Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 4JH

School vision
<p>St John's, Gosport Church of England Primary School endeavours to provide a happy, safe, caring community rooted in Christian values; where everyone is valued and grows to their full potential.</p> <p><i>John 10:10 – I came so that they may have life – life in all its fullness</i></p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Christian values of love, courage and respect, the Christian vision is clearly expressed and deeply rooted at St John's School. • The vision shines through the support for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those considered more vulnerable. It shapes the inclusive learning experience for pupils. • A strong understanding of spirituality is shared by staff and governors and encouraged through high quality collective worship. • The clear vision creates a caring culture in which pupils and adults are treated very well.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen the learning in religious education (RE) by extending opportunities for pupils to retrieve and effectively use prior knowledge.
Inspection findings
<p>Leaders ensure the Christian vision permeates through their work at St John's School. It is clearly expressed through the Christian values of love, courage and respect. Each value is theologically rooted. There is a real sense of warmth and love around the school between adults and pupils. The pupils are valued as individuals and love is shared in abundance. This love is seen in the exceptionally strong relationships that exist between school and home. There is a clear sense of belonging. As a result, pupils enjoy attending school.</p> <p>Inclusion is prioritised by staff, and they are united in ensuring the learning serves the needs of the pupils. When starting at the school, relationships are formed quickly with pupils and additional help is identified and put in place for individuals. Leaders and governors monitor and evaluate the school's work regularly to ensure the vision drives their decision making and that it supports vulnerable pupils. St John's School serves a diverse community. Both adults and pupils are accepting of each other and notice when someone needs help. Parents value the</p>

fact that staff support the pupils' individual needs. They feel a strong connection with staff and appreciate the fact that their children are prepared well for their future lives.

Pupils are nurtured to become independent, reflective and courageous learners. They are motivated and have positive attitudes towards their learning. The school uses a specific programme throughout each year group to teach pupils the important themes of inclusion. As a result, pupils have a sense of purpose, pride and understanding of who they are and their place in their community. They deepen their understanding of relationships and connections by using 'mirror moments' to connect with themselves, 'door moments' to connect with others and 'window moments' to connect with the world. Pupils value these opportunities for reflection, which occur throughout the day in various lessons.

The fully inclusive collective worship schedule is woven with the school's values. It follows the liturgical calendar and conveys messages through Bible stories that are relevant to both adults' and pupils' lives. This learning is followed up in class. Spirituality is developed in pupils and adults through reflection time which is a valuable part of each day. It aids the pupils' character development. Members of the different local churches lead collective worship regularly. The relationship between the school and the church is strengthening as they all embrace recent changes. The weekly Bible story is included in each newsletter, so parents can talk with their children about it at home to share their learning from school. The spirituality garden is a creative and inviting space which is well used by pupils. They appreciate it as a quiet place for reflection. Specific activities placed around the school, like weaving fabric in a loom to think about the community being together, help pupils to think more deeply about their school values.

The wellbeing of pupils and adults is prioritised by leaders. Visitors and new pupils are made to feel very welcome. Pupils have trust in the adults that help them, and feel safe knowing who to go to if they have a worry. They know that everyone is different, yet all are equal. Pupils readily recognise and are confident to say they are treated with respect. The school community has recently dealt with a great deal of adversity. However, in each situation the school has become the central point of contact and support for those affected. In the community, St John's pupils have been commended as positive role models by living out the Christian values in the library and local park. Their behaviour and care shown to others has been described as exemplary.

Pupils enjoy meaningful opportunities to be agents of change. Every day, they are taught to think about others, which is demonstrated by their care and support for one another. During lessons, pupils discuss themes of justice and responsibility. This empowers them to improve the lives of others and to take care of their environment to make their world a better place. Recent events, led by pupils, involved bringing in and swapping clothes and toys plus carrying out litter picking in the streets and beach. Pupils have many roles of leadership and responsibility, and they take these very seriously. Messages shared in collective worship motivate the whole school to work together to bring about change. The successes of pupils are recognised and celebrated. The governors regularly give awards to pupils who have lived out the school's values. This strengthens the relationship between governors and pupils. Pupils are considerate and encouraging of each other as they receive these awards. The school takes part in many community events, for example the recent D-Day commemoration. The school choir sang, and pupils laid a wreath to remember and show respect to service personnel. Service children have a club, Little Heroes, which is well attended and supports pupils whose families are serving away from home.

RE is a highly valued subject, enjoyed by pupils with a variety of activities in the lessons. The cycle of enquiry that is used enables teachers to plan a balanced and broad curriculum. Time is given during RE lessons for pupils to relate their learning to their own lives. One pupil explained, 'Noah was courageous and so was I when I moved to this school.' Pupils' misconceptions are sensitively corrected. This helps them to increase their understanding of subject knowledge. Pupils enjoy learning about different world faiths including Christianity. They especially enjoy hearing directly from people with a faith.

Regular adult peer to peer support is encouraged as staff learn and develop from one another. Teachers value the impact of the training received from the RE leader. It helps them to increase their knowledge and confidence in teaching different world faiths including Christianity. The governors frequently monitor RE books and lessons to ensure the learning is tailored to the needs of all pupils. Evidence from this monitoring informs the next steps for the development of RE within the school. Effective training from the diocese is in place for governors. Pupils do not always have opportunities to consider or use their prior learning in the subject.

There is an overwhelming sense that St John's is a community with a strong Christian ethos where individuals are well known and loved. Staff and pupils are proud to be a part of the school.

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

Information			
School	St John's CofE Primary School	Inspection date	12.06.2024
URN	116393	VC/VA/Academy	VA
Diocese/District	Portsmouth	Pupils on roll	370
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Carolyn Wilkinson		
Chair of Governors	Jean Watson		
Inspector	Sarah Dunning	No.	c.23/24