

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bishop Carpenter Church of England Primary School

Vision

'There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is Roots, the other, Wings.'

In being rooted in knowing we are all loved by God, we are then able to be more aware of our God given wings to fly and flourish, to bear fruit in our lives, fruits of the Holy Spirit, fruit that will last.

We want our children to grow by being contemplative, compassionate and courageous.

Strengths

- Pupils have a deep understanding of the school's Christian vision. It is embedded throughout all aspects of the life of the school. The impact of the vision is clearly seen and acknowledged by pupils, staff, parents and visitors as making a difference to the school community and beyond.
- Leaders and staff are passionate about the vision and inspired to provide opportunities that go beyond the expected. They strive to provide the best for the pupils and for their community. Key partnerships provide additional support to the flourishing of the school and its community.
- Pupils play a significant role in the development of collective worship and of the school's vision. They demonstrate strong leadership and recognise how their engagement, and the values help to shape their thinking and spiritual flourishing.
- The school has a strong, caring, and inclusive culture of high expectations for and of all pupils. The collaboration between the school and the Trust enables pupils and staff to thrive and grow their talents.

Development Points

- Ensure opportunities for spiritual flourishing are identified in curriculum plans. This is to enable pupils to express their thinking. Additionally, this is to support a shared recognition of how and where spirituality permeates all aspects of school life.
- Embed the new curriculum framework and monitoring for RE, so that it builds upon the existing practice. This is to ensure consistent progress and development for all pupils.
- Deepen pupils' understanding of ethical choices and justice. This is to enable them to further explore their global responsibility and their impact as agents of change.



Inspection Findings

Bishop Carpenter Church of England Primary School is a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive school, set at the heart of its community. The deeply embedded Christian vision underpins leaders' passion for the development of the whole school and the flourishing of all. Leaders have created a culture of kindness, trust and respect. Through this the school community welcomes and celebrates diversity and difference; offering equity of opportunity for all. The three core values: contemplative, compassionate and courageous underpin the school's expression of its vision and that of the diocese. This demonstrates the strength of the partnership with the values of the Trust and of the diocese. Leaders seek to ensure that the values reflect the vision of each partner as one collaborative vision and approach. This provides a strength and synergy clearly seen in the spiritual and academic offer for pupils, and the development of staff. Staff and pupils articulate their lived experience of the values and vision well. They demonstrate a secure understanding of the theological principles that underpin them drawing on bible stories as examples. Governors and Trust leaders know the school well. They are regular visitors and active participants in school events and worship. A strong, reflective approach to self-evaluation and monitoring provides an accurate picture of the impact of the vision. This enables effective ongoing development of the school, supporting pupils and adults to flourish.

The school's curriculum is an expression of their vision. It provides strong learning opportunities from which pupils can explore their own thinking. The values permeate all aspects of learning and curriculum delivery. The Trust ensures support and flexibility in curriculum delivery and planning to reflect the school's foundation. This has enabled the uniqueness of the school to shine through. Leaders ensure the curriculum is high-quality and accessible. As a result, lessons are adapted to support and challenge pupils, providing opportunities for them to develop and flourish. Curriculum improvement is driven by strong professional development for staff delivered by the school and Trust partnerships. Clarity in planning enables pupils to have time to explore the values as an integral part of learning. As a result, pupils relate the school vision and values to real-life situations and articulate their thinking with clarity. The curriculum is further enhanced through enriching experiences such as residential, and access to musical, sporting and creative development. These provide extensive opportunities for pupils to develop their individual skills and talents, which are celebrated in school. There are rich opportunities which develop spirituality throughout curricular and extra-curricular activities. As a result, pupils are supported to reflect on and share their understanding of spirituality and their own spiritual development. Spiritual development is not currently fully planned into the curriculum. Leaders are mapping it across aspects of school life to embed a shared language and understanding. This will further enhance the monitoring and impact of spiritual development across the curriculum and the wider school.

Collective worship is a central point to the school day. It is well-planned to reflect the needs of the school community and local, national and international events. It is well led by staff and pupils who ensure a worshipful, reflective and spiritual atmosphere is maintained throughout. Pupils strive to be a part of the Worship Team. They reflect that it supports both the school and their own spiritual and faith development. Collective worship is underpinned by the vision, core values, and termly values expectations such as respect, friendship and patience. This enables pupils to reflect on how to live well together in the local and wider, global community; and how to develop spiritually. Collective worship is invitational and those of faith and none are actively engaged and participate. A number of pupils identified the impact of the vision and collective worship on developing their own prayer-life. Worship, held at the school and church, is supported and enjoyed by parents and community as important to school life. As a result, parents and community members are engaged in the school's vision, values and mission, and experience its impact. The school has a strong partnership with the local church. Partnership with church schools within the Trust further supports the development of collective worship and spirituality. This is demonstrated through regular opportunities for joint planning, professional development and sharing best practice.



Leaders create a culture in which pupils, staff and the school community are treated with the highest regard and compassion. Reflecting recent difficult times, it is evident how sustaining their lived vision and values is in supporting them all. There is a strength in the school community articulated by staff, pupils and parents, underpinned by the vision and the school leadership. Parents know that the children are known and loved as individuals, and that the school offers support to all families. Individual needs are met to support pupil development and family need. Consequently, pupils are included in the opportunities on offer and families feel supported. Pupils identify their staff as approachable and trustworthy, explaining that staff embody the vision and set the example for them. Staff feel highly valued by pupils, school and the Trust. Staff well-being and mental health is a high priority. School and Trust practices reflect this strongly, for example through effective coaching and 'no more marking' approaches. Community is a core element of the school's Christian vision. The school strives to be outward-looking. Partnering with local and national charities which reflect the school community and shared experiences, empowers pupils to explore 'big questions' and to take action. BeSpace is one partnership that has significantly impacted the expression of the vision into practice. This enables pupils to explore key facets of faith and spirituality through exploring scenarios such as homelessness, regret and thankfulness. Leader's evaluation is leading to further development of courageous advocacy in a global setting. This will support pupils to consider their impact and responsibilities in the wider world.

Religious education (RE) is a high priority in the school and is effectively timetabled to ensure it is a weekly focus. Pupils make good progress in RE. This is underpinned by the well-structured and effective balanced curriculum, and progress tracking. This supports teacher's knowledge of pupil progress and learning against the curriculum requirements. Consequently, the school adapts the curriculum to meet the needs of pupils and to challenge misconception effectively. Leaders acknowledge that the curriculum requires updating to reflect recent curriculum changes and to further develop approaches to assessment. This will ensure that the curriculum remains relevant and impactful for all.

The teaching of RE is good, and responsive to the needs of the pupils. Teachers are supported by leaders and the Trust effectively through professional development which underpins their strong subject knowledge. Pupils actively engage in RE lessons, demonstrating a good understanding of Christianity and world faiths. They articulate their enjoyment of RE and find the themes and topics interesting and challenging. They recall prior knowledge well, reflect and articulate their understanding through open-ended questioning, writing, art and other creative media. This supports the deepening of their knowledge and understanding, enabling them to explore 'big questions' and to be curious. Pupils understand Christianity as a living, global and diverse faith, and can relate this back to their own lives and communities.

Information

Address	School Lane, North Newington, Banbury, OX15 6AQ		
Date	26 September 2024	URN	142191
Type of school	Academy (Inspected as Voluntary Aided)	No. of pupils	98
Diocese	Oxford		
MAT/Federation	Warriner Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Nichola Stevenson		
Chair of Governors	Chris Hutchins		
Inspector	Jeremy Piper		