



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Great Kimble Church of England Primary School	
Address	Church Lane, Great Kimble, HP17 9TH
School vision	
<p>Great Kimble Church of England School’s Christian vision is based in the theological root, 1 Corinthians 13:7 ‘Love never gives up and its faith, hope and patience never fail’. In our inclusive Christian vision, all our learning community are welcomed and celebrated. All are nurtured and supported to love, learn, live and grow. Together we live out the values of respect, thankfulness, love, hope, forgiveness and endurance. We aspire to be a school community where all can flourish.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school’s vision is at the very heart of school life. It undoubtedly drives leaders’ priorities and planning, and is lived out in everything that the school undertakes. • Inspired by the school’s vision, staff welcome and nurture pupils. There is an exceptional sense of a loving, caring family in which every individual is known. These strong relationships are rooted in Christian love for one another. • Partnerships within the parish, local community, trust and diocese are strong. These meaningful partnerships enhance provision for all pupils and adults. • Collective worship provides clear, reflective opportunities for developing personal spirituality. The school’s distinctive Christian vision and shared values drive an exceptionally well-planned and organised programme. • Leaders have established a well-sequenced and balanced curriculum in religious education (RE). This develops pupils’ knowledge and understanding of major world religions and provides opportunities to consider the impact of faith on life. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the approach used for spiritual development in collective worship to all areas of the curriculum. This is so that there are increased opportunities for pupils’ reflection. • Strengthen pupils’ understanding of the difference they can make as agents of change beyond their local community. • Make planning and teaching of non-religious worldviews more explicit in RE. This will broaden pupils’ understanding of their place in the world. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>An impressive amount of change at Great Kimble Church of England School has been achieved in recent years. This is due to a relentless focus by school leaders on the school's Christian vision. Leaders have developed a strong vision, together with associated values, to meet the needs of their community and the families they serve. This clear vision is at the very heart of leaders’ priorities and planning. They have grown a loving, respectful team who work closely together and care for one another. They work effectively with members of the local governing body who monitor the school’s</p>	



effectiveness as a church school. The trust provides appropriate challenge to support pupils and adults' learning.

Creative curriculum plans and secure teaching means that pupils are motivated to learn. Recent revisions to the curriculum have been carefully designed to meet pupils' needs. Lesson outcomes are phrased in a way to focus pupils on thinking as a subject expert. Provision for pupils who are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged ensure that, in line with their vision, all can learn and grow. The approach to spiritual development has been carefully and thoughtfully planned, with effective support from the diocese. 'Windows' give opportunities for pupils to become aware of the world in new ways. 'Mirrors' give them opportunities to reflect upon experiences. 'Doors' allow pupils to respond and put into action their beliefs and values. The approach is powerful in collective worship, and becoming effective in RE. It is not yet deployed in other areas of the curriculum, which limits pupils' spiritual development.

Collective worship is an integral part of school life. It creates a calm, focused start to every day to learn, think, sing, and reflect and pray together. All are invited to participate in prayer and reflection without compulsion. Planning for collective worship is rooted in Christian values. It is detailed and thoughtful. Pupils explain the impact of the school's 'windows, mirrors and doors' approach within collective worship. These moments contribute well to their spiritual flourishing. Pupils particularly enjoy the weekly 'Fruits of the Spirit' awards. Every pupil and member of staff's photograph is on a tree in the school hall. The values-based awards are added to their individual photographs. Great Kimble School, through its vision, ensures that the achievements of members of its community are celebrated. Parents and carers, too, have regular occasions to join the school for collective worship. This builds the strength of family as a worshipping community. There is a very strong relationship with clergy and members of local churches, who support the school's collective worship programme weekly. This relationship creates mutual flourishing, with the local church developing new arrangements for services specifically to meet the needs of families and children. The school is as much a valued member of the local church, as the church is of the school.

The quality of relationships in the school is exceptional. In line with their vision, all are welcomed and celebrated. These relationships are underpinned by Christian love. There is an effective culture of nurture and care for pupils, adults and the local community. Staff greet pupils and their parents every morning. They engage in games and activities with pupils at break times. Those joining the school in other year groups say they settle quickly and feel valued. Every individual is known and loved. Parents appreciate the rapid response and provision that staff make when they have queries. Following the reviewed vision, the changes to the behaviour policy, for example, were transformational in raising expectations and improving behaviour. These ensured that any inappropriate behaviours were managed in a Christian way. The wellbeing of staff is held in high esteem by school leaders. They appreciate the headteacher's level of care, who herself is well supported by the deputy headteacher, local governing body and members of the trust. Staff speak highly of the focus on their professional development, whether led by school or trust leaders, or the diocese. This visionary focus on creating a respected, loved team has reduced staff turnover and stabilised the school.

The school enjoys exceptionally close partnerships with the community and local church. The parish hosted a 'Light Party', as an alternative to Hallowe'en and they also lead the weekly St Nics' School Choir, who perform in St Nicholas Church Kids Sunday Service once a month. Such interactions ensure that pupils see themselves as valued members of the local community. Equally, the partnerships with the trust and diocese bolster the school's vision to nurture growth. The school's values develop a good sense of care for their school environment and local community. Pupils are keen to take on roles of responsibility. They engage in litter picking to improve the environment and support others by donating to the One Can Trust, a local foodbank charity. They do not readily think



more globally. Opportunities in collective worship and the curriculum expose pupils to consider wider issues. However, pupils are not yet becoming agents of change and championing causes or injustices beyond their local community.

Pupils enjoy RE. It is valued as an important part of the curriculum. Pupils say, 'It teaches us about the world and how we can respect others.' The school aims for pupils to think 'as a theologian' in RE. Thoughtful planning creates a well-sequenced and balanced curriculum. Support from the diocese has been highly effective in the development and delivery of curriculum plans. These follow the locally agreed syllabus, alongside materials from the diocese. Pupils develop knowledge and understanding of major world religions and have opportunities to consider the impact of faith on their life. There are some examples of non-religious world views, but planning for these is not explicit and pupils do not explore these in depth. This limits pupils' understanding of their place in the world.

The Christian vision of Great Kimble School ensures that love for one another underpins the learning needed for life. As a result, pupils and adults live the school values, grow and flourish.

The inspection findings indicate that Great Kimble Church of England School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	26 January 2024	URN	145323
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	102
Diocese	Oxford		
MAT/Federation	Great Learners Trust		
Headteacher	Clare Lodge		
Chair	Peter Westaway		
Inspector	Rob Halls	No.	2106