

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Woodstock Church of England Primary School			
Address	Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1LL		
Date of inspection	17 January 2019	Status of school	VC Primary
Diocese	Oxford	URN	123118
Overall Judgement			Excellent
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?			
Additional Judgement			
The impact of collective worship			Excellent
School context			
Woodstock CE school is an average sized primary school with 301 pupils on roll. The school has low levels of religious and cultural diversity and few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below the national average. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is in line with the national average. In March 2016, the school was designated as a National Teaching and Support School.			
The school's Christian vision			
The vision for Woodstock CE Primary School reflects a passionate commitment to learning and recognition of the uniqueness of individual learners. Guided by our Christian values, it is driven by desire to offer the best possible education for our pupils in partnership with parents, the church and the local community.			
Key findings			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The headteacher's dedicated Christian vision and effective leadership ensure the school's distinctive Christian character permeates all aspects of school life. • The caring and nurturing Christian environment, within a spirit of love and friendship, enables all pupils to flourish as individuals. • The partnership between the school and the church has a positive impact on the spiritual development and wellbeing of pupils. • Collective worship expresses the school's Christian vision exceptionally well, enabling the whole school community to encounter the teachings of Jesus. • The excellent religious knowledge and understanding of the pupils makes a rich contribution to their spiritual and personal development. 			
Area for development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the school's Christian vision, with its biblical roots, is reflected clearly in all school policies, documents and on the school website in order to make this explicit to all. 			

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

The school's inclusive, distinctive Christian vision, developed by leaders, reflects Woodstock in its specific context. This is exemplified in Jeremiah 29. 'For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'. The associated values of friendship, respect, responsibility, perseverance and kindness are thus grounded in a clear Christian theology. Rigorous monitoring and self-evaluation, through the development plan, ensures that the school's original foundation is sustained and enhanced. The recommendations from the previous SIAMS inspection have been addressed successfully. For instance, the use of 'Reflect and Express' books enables pupils to explore the spiritual dimensions of all subjects actively.

Leaders are proactive and engage positively with current developments which serve the common good. As a result, the school's innovative practice acts as a centre of excellence, helping pupils, in this school and beyond, to transform their lives. This is apparent in work undertaken both with the Oxfordshire Teaching School Alliance and with The Woodstock Partnership of Schools. The school uses its vision to shape development plans and school strategies, such as its excellent provision for vulnerable pupils. However, this is not mirrored in all the school's documents and policies.

The vibrant curriculum, informed by the school's Christian vision, enables all learners to make excellent progress. Pupils achieve exceptionally well, both academically and spiritually. An impressive array of extra-curricular opportunities provides diverse experiences such as sailing, sports, music and arts. These are always offered first to vulnerable pupils. Consequently, all groups of pupils, including those with additional learning or personal needs, reach their full potential. In this way, hope for the future, as stated in Jeremiah, is seen in action.

Highly effective partnerships with parents and local schools are mutually beneficial. Staff and leaders are well supported through effective diocesan training. Parents appreciate the excellent communication, such as the Grapevine newsletter from governors and the many nurturing aspects of the school. This means that any issues or concerns are always dealt with promptly and with Christian compassion, very much in the spirit of enabling all to prosper. The partnership with St. Mary Magdalen Church and the school is particularly strong. As a result, the school benefits from the advice and practical support of the local clergy and church team.

The whole school community lives out the school's distinctive Christian vision in relationships, working together and supporting each other. Leaders prioritise staff wellbeing and all are treated with dignity and respect. This can be seen in the way everyone enfolded a member of the school family with love and support following a sudden bereavement. The school supports the mental health of both pupils and adults outstandingly well. This is because the school offers several support strategies, including the Wellbeing Award, Anti-Bullying Week and the All Together Award. The use of mindfulness, art and sport activities contributes to stress reduction and provides valuable coping skills for when life is difficult. Consequently, as stated in the vision, each individual is cherished for their unique qualities.

Pupils say the school's Christian vision uplifts them in their learning and helps them to make good choices. One pupil explained how the value of perseverance helped him complete a challenging maths assignment, despite wanting to give up initially. The Christian vision supports the character and moral development of pupils through a positive rewards system. This allows pupils to earn prized 'community credits' when they demonstrate the vision and values in action. These are awarded for showing respect, taking responsibility, showing kindness of spirit or being an exceptional role model. Because the behaviour policy is rooted in the Christian principles of forgiveness and reconciliation, behaviour at the school is exemplary. This creates a community where all flourish and live well together, in the spirit of the Christian vision.

The school's Christian vision inspires the whole school community to engage in social action in their local, national and global communities. This is evidenced by all the work undertaken to achieve the Global International Award and the Green Flag Award. A programme of weekly 'Our World' presentations helps pupils to open their horizons by questioning and exploring ideas. The link with a school in Gambia enables pupils to think globally and to consider ways to challenge poverty, injustice and inequality. This was evident in the way pupils, acting as advocates for change, engaged in Fairtrade Fortnight with passion and enthusiasm.

The value of respect is a thread that runs through the school and pupils feel confident to express their views in a culture of mutual regard. This is because the Christian vision creates an environment that embraces difference and celebrates pupils as unique individuals. Leaders ensure that any barriers to inclusion are significantly reduced. This is shown in the many ways staff go the 'extra mile' to ensure each pupil is loved and cherished. A Year 6 pupil remarked, 'I love how kind and respectful everyone is at this school'.

Inspirational creative worship, with a focus on Jesus' teaching in the Bible, ends every school day on a motivational note. As a result, collective worship is valued by the whole school community as central to school life. The attitude of pupils to collective worship is excellent because high quality worship enhances their spiritual development. Both pupils and adults speak with enthusiasm about how worship influences their lives, both in and out of school. A variety of leaders, including local clergy, lead worship regularly at the school and provide innovative support. This means that all grow spiritually through experiences of music, prayer, stillness and reflection. Pupils enjoy writing their own prayers for the prayer tree and articulate the value of prayer and reflection outstandingly well. Worship reflects the school's vision of a community built on the best possible experiences for personal growth.

Religious Education (RE) is stimulating and reflects the Christian vision of the school exceptionally well. This is because RE has a high profile and is led enthusiastically by the subject coordinator. She is actively involved in leading innovation with other local schools and this expertise results in high quality RE provision. Pupils have significant opportunities to engage with a range of religions and worldviews. Consequently, they speak with impressive confidence, responding with maturity to many 'big questions'. These include, 'What do we mean by humanity?' and 'What lies beyond?' As a result, pupils demonstrate informed and respectful understanding of a range of religions, especially Christianity.

Headteacher

Lisa Rowe

Inspector's name and number

Jenny Earp 288