

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Slough and Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College	
Address	Ragstone Road, Slough, SL1 2PU
School vision	
<p>Jesus said, 'I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness.' (John 10: 10). Our expectations of students are high both in terms of conduct and engagement with learning. We believe that the needs of each individual require the closest of attention and that strong relationships between adults and students are vital for all to flourish. Work Hard, Be Nice, No Excuses is how we walk in Jesus' shoes on a daily basis and the values of communication, honesty, responsibility, initiative, success and tolerance should be enabled to shine bright in us all.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian vision is carefully considered and takes full account of its disadvantaged and diverse context. It is communicated with passion by school leaders and understood and valued by all members of the school community. As a result adults and students flourish. • School leaders and governors show exceptional care for the school community. Both adults and students receive excellent pastoral and mental health support. Particular care is shown for those who are vulnerable or who are experiencing times of difficulty. • The outworking of school vision creates a culture in which students know that they are listened to. This encourages them to take bold initiatives. They take great pride in living out the school's values and making change for the good. • Collective worship fully supports the spiritual development of students and adults. It is closely aligned to the school's Christian vision and is reinforced throughout the week by opportunities for discussion and reflection. • Religious education (RE) is deservedly highly valued by students. It offers them a challenging and diverse curriculum and enables them to discuss issues in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take steps to expose all students to Christian Eucharistic worship during their time at the school, so they can understand the centrality of this sacrament to Christians. • Develop further opportunities for students who express a Christian faith to practise their faith, so that they can celebrate their Christian identity. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The school's Christian vision is based on Jesus' words, 'I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness' (John 10: 10). It has been carefully crafted by school leaders and governors. They ensure that it makes the school's distinctive Christian identity a living reality in its ethnically diverse, predominantly Muslim context. The school's mantra is 'Work hard, be nice, no excuses'.</p>	

Both this and the school's C.H.R.I.S.T. values (communication, honesty, responsibility, initiative, success and tolerance) flow naturally from the vision. The mantra, values and their biblical underpinning are all displayed prominently throughout the school and are frequently referenced by staff. As a result, all members of the school remember, understand and value them. This creates a community characterised by high aspiration, celebration of diversity and deep pastoral care for all. In this nurturing and vibrant environment both adults and students flourish.

The school is a member of the Slough and East Berkshire Church of England Multi-Academy Trust (SEBMAT). This comprises both Church of England and non-denominational schools. Membership of the trust has enabled the school to thrive as a church school. The trust provides professional development opportunities for staff and valuable pastoral support for students. An example of this is the trust's funding of the Shepherd Centre.

The curriculum at Slough and Eton is ambitious and tailored to the needs of the local context. A wide range of appropriate pathways is offered at Key Stage 4. There is a rich extra-curricular offer that includes music, drama and sport and a wealth of educational visits. All students follow the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award in Year 9. They have the opportunity to follow the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme in Key Stage 4 and 5. There is also special provision for those students who have high academic aspirations, and for those finding education challenging. The Shepherd Centre, the Grace Centre and the Personalised Learning Room ensure that all students are offered bespoke, focussed support. Their expert interventions sustain students at times when they are vulnerable and support their reintegration into the mainstream. It is clear that the curriculum fully reflects the school's commitment to enable all students to enjoy life in all its fullness.

The positive mental health of adults and students is given high priority by leaders. Everyone knows where they can access support in times of difficulty. Staff are particularly appreciative of leaders' willingness to give them space, time and access to professional support when they are experiencing problems. Many adults comment that leaders 'believe in them' and promote their careers in substantial, practical ways.

Two thirds of the students at Slough and Eton are Muslims. In the light of this, great care is taken to balance authentic Christian collective worship with due respect for students' beliefs. The collective worship calendar is carefully planned. Over the course of the school year it covers each of the school's C.H.R.I.S.T. values. In addition the programme includes major festivals from Christianity and other major world religions and significant events such as Remembrance and Black History Month. Acts of collective worship always make use of biblical text and are sensitively applied to the needs of the school community. They end with an invitation to pray or reflect on the topic. Students are frequently involved in devising and presenting collective worship and take great pride in this. Topics covered in collective worship are followed up in tutor groups and through the school's personal development programme. This gives further opportunities for discussion and reflection. As a result, collective worship enhances the whole rhythm of school life. Students' survey responses confirm that it inspires them. Collective worship undoubtedly makes a strong contribution to the spiritual development of students and adults.

The school provides many opportunities for students to develop their own personal spiritualities. The student led interfaith society arranges frequent events for all. They play a significant role in organising the school's annual multicultural celebration, which includes a fair and a fashion show. Students cite this as being particularly important in developing their own faith and enhancing the school's vibrancy and cohesion. A room is set aside for prayer during lunchtimes and is widely used by students of all faiths, particularly by Muslim students. Students talk freely about praying and value the school's support for their spiritual development. However, the school does not expose all students to a Eucharistic celebration. There is also currently no opportunity for students who

profess a Christian faith to choose to take part in the Eucharist. The school, in partnership with the local parish, is in the process of appointing a chaplain, to address these issues.

RE is given high priority by school leaders, and consequently by students who confirm that they value and enjoy the subject. It is well led and taught by a team of specialist practitioners. Discussion in lessons is lively and well managed, creating an atmosphere of respectful enquiry. A student, from a Shia Muslim background echoed the views of many saying, 'RE has helped me understand other sects in Islam and Christians.'. The curriculum in all key stages is effective. Results at GCSE religious studies, which is taken by all students, are impressive. The A Level cohort is strong. The Sixth Form core RE syllabus enables students to develop their theological understanding by engaging with important current issues.

Students develop into articulate and active citizens. They are highly motivated to make a difference in their school and beyond, seeing this as living out the school mantra. They are particularly committed to supporting those who are struggling financially in the local area. They raise funds and provide practical support to local food banks and homeless charities. Their response to the recent humanitarian tragedy in Gaza has been urgent. This demonstrates both a care for others and a willingness to act and be agents for change for the good. Within school, the school council is an effective organisation promoting sensible changes in response to students' requests.

As well as its membership of SEBMAT, the school has many productive partnerships, including with the local parish and the diocese. For example, a recent music project alongside a neighbouring diocesan primary school and professional musicians greatly enriched students' learning. They collaborated to create a new choral work celebrating the life of William Herschel, local astronomer and composer. The parish priest is a member of the local governing body. His regular presence in school is valued by staff and students. All Year 7 students visit the parish church. The church and the school are working together establishing a food bank. The school makes effective use of diocesan support.

The inspection findings indicate that Slough and Eton C of E Business and Enterprise College is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	14 November 2023	URN	137287
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	1202
Diocese	Oxford		
MAT/Federation	THE SLOUGH AND EAST BERKSHIRE C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST		
Headteacher	Peter Collins		
Chair	Chris Tomes		
Inspector	Andrew Wilcock	No.	2112