

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St George's Church of England Infant School

Vision

Inspire, Believe, Achieve

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5¹⁶

Our school seeks to provide high quality education where everyone is inspired, believes in themselves so they can achieve their full potential and flourish. Our vision is supported in our liveable Christian values of courage, commitment, community, compassion and love.

St George's Infant and Preschool is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths:

Strengths

- The deeply embedded Christian vision and values drive every aspect of St George's daily life. As a result, everyone is given the opportunity to let their light shine within a loving, welcoming environment.
- The vision shapes the aspirational curriculum, enhancing the learning experiences for all groups of pupils. This ensures they flourish and achieve their full potential.
- The culture of care, nurture and compassion is a particular strength. Relationships are good across the school community, reflecting the priority given to kindness and individual needs.
- Meaningful partnerships with St George's church and other local church groups enrich provision for collective worship. These contribute well to the spiritual flourishing of both adults and pupils.
- Religious education (RE) engages pupils in their learning. The balanced and challenging curriculum ensures that they gain a broad knowledge of Christianity, as well as other religions and beliefs.

Development Points

- Develop the shared understanding of spirituality across the school to ensure it is an explicitly planned part of the curriculum. This is to enable pupils to flourish spiritually.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision and associated values guide and sustain the work at this highly effective Church school. Governors know their school well, providing exceptional support and challenge. Guided by the vision, leaders make astute decisions that lead to improvement. For instance, they prioritise ongoing professional development by facilitating bespoke training, thus enabling staff to flourish. Regular, whole-school vision days, attended by governors, ensure that a strong focus is maintained in order to inspire, believe and achieve. By using the imagery of 'windows, mirrors and doors', even the youngest pupils have an understanding of the vision. Pupils recognise inspiration by looking through their windows to the next exciting learning opportunity. Adults and pupils alike are able to articulate how they are able to 'shine' at St George's school. This is because they are encouraged to achieve and reach their potential, whatever their individual gifts or talents may be.

The aspirational curriculum is broad, stimulating and inclusive, fostering self-belief and purpose. Outdoor learning at the school's forest school is particularly valued and offers opportunities for spiritual development. Pupils enjoy many trips and visits. These include, to the Roald Dahl Museum in Aylesbury, the Discovery Centre in Oxford and the pantomime. A wide range of themed weeks and extra-curricular activities, including music, sports and the arts, enrich the learning programme. Parents are proud of the school which is an 'incredible, really special place to learn and grow'. Targeted provision for pupils with special individual needs enables them to learn, participate and thrive. The windows, mirrors and doors approach helps to frame spiritual understanding. However, this is not an intrinsic part of the curriculum.

Times for the whole school to gather together for collective worship are cherished by adults and pupils. They provide moments for prayer and reflection, which contribute well to spiritual flourishing. Worship is given high prominence by being timetabled at the start of each new day. The school's vision and values are therefore recalled daily. This has a positive impact on those who attend. Pupil worship leaders are proud to welcome everyone by sharing the gathering and the sending out. They explain that the candles lit at the start of worship reminds them that Jesus is the light of the world. This inspires them to shine their lights, too. Singing is joyful and much enjoyed by those who take part. The school's relationship with St George's church is strong. Clergy lead acts of worship regularly and provide valued pastoral support. Along with involvement from other churches in the locality, pupils experience a breadth of Christian expression. For instance, weekly visits by church volunteers to present the popular 'Open the Book' are greatly enjoyed. These extend knowledge and love of biblical stories. Pupils and adults treasure visits to the church for significant services during the year.

The vision inspires members of the school community to treat each other with respect and dignity. This creates an exceptionally nurturing environment, where relationships are strong. The mental health and wellbeing of everyone in the school community are prioritised. Staff focus carefully on pupils' emotional needs and development, as well as their academic progress and achievement. Carefully selected resources are effective in enabling pupils to learn how to regulate their feelings. In an age-appropriate way, they acquire strategies to help them feel calm and positive. The school's 'wheel of choice' similarly shows young pupils how to deal with disagreements or situations they find difficult. They are taught how to react appropriately through eight responses, remembering to, 'try to use three before asking me'. Any barriers to learning are swiftly broken down and leaders ensure that the most vulnerable pupils are well supported and enjoy school. Acts of kindness are celebrated weekly by identifying those who fill 'buckets of kindness' for others. This is very effective and particularly appreciated by parents who say their



children like to replicate this at home. Heidi, the school dog, is much loved, bringing a sense of calm and wellbeing to the school environment.

Serving others in the community is an important aspect of life at St George's. This echoes the school's values of community, compassion and love. The school has developed a bespoke community challenge award, inspiring pupils to become agents of change. Pupils are given awards for making a positive impact at school, at home or in the community. These are greatly prized and inspire them to use their initiative to challenge issues or help others. Encouraged by the vision, pupils raise funds for a variety of charities, including Comic Relief and Jeans for Genes. Their concerns about road safety prompted them to write to the local MP, who responded positively. Pupils develop leadership skills through a range of roles, including eco warriors, worship leaders and school councillors. These opportunities give them a keen sense of responsibility and support them in challenging injustice. By litter picking, recycling their rubbish and clothing, they understand that small actions can make a difference. This has led to pupils developing an understanding about how they can bring about positive change.

RE has a high priority, with an appropriate amount of time planned for the subject. The curriculum is challenging and well-sequenced, enabling pupils to gain an understanding of a range of world religions, including Christianity. Teachers are supported well to deliver the RE curriculum through training and advice from the diocese. Visitors and parents come into school to share their expertise about religions such as Judaism and Sikhism. This enriches pupils' knowledge and understanding of faiths and beliefs. Creative ways of expressing and recording RE can be seen all around the school. For instance, artwork depicting lighthouses illustrates how light can shine far and wide as a beacon of hope. Younger pupils' work is recorded in impressive floor books, showing that they have experienced a wide range of RE topics. Year 2 pupils record eloquent responses to Big Questions, demonstrating their deep understanding of the topics. By living out the vision, pupils and adults at St George's undoubtedly shine their light in order to inspire, believe and achieve.

Information

Address	White Lion Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP7 9HX		
Date	3 December 2024	URN	110424
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	164
Diocese	Oxford		
Headteacher	Victoria Harjette		
Co- chairs of Governors	Tara Botwright/ Julia Dawson		
Inspector	Jenny Earp		