

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Cassington	
Address	The Green, Cassington, Witney, OX29 4DN
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>Everyone at St Peters is encouraged to embrace life with the boldness and hope of Peter, who stepped out of the boat, walked on water and achieved the impossible. Through Christian worship, values and love, helping hands are offered to support every member of our community to reach their potential. Matthew 14 22-33</p> <p>'Minds that Learn, Hearts that Love, Faith that Gives'</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded Christian vision motivates every aspect of school life. The innovative 'values wheel' is linked creatively to the vision and has an extraordinary, beneficial impact on everyone at the school. • The vision reflects the importance that the school places on the teachings of Jesus and the character of St Peter. The Bible story of Peter leaving the boat when he met Jesus encourages pupils and adults to act courageously. • An inspiring, cohesive and bold curriculum empowers pupils to achieve and has a lasting, positive impact on them. The school provides valuable support to other schools within the Eynsham Partnership Academy, (EPA) as well as to the diocese. Leaders are committed to widening the impact of this support. • Outstanding collective worship is the heartbeat of St Peter's school. It is creative, inspirational and has a powerful, transformational impact on everyone in the school community. A strong and mutually beneficial relationship exists between the school and St Peter's church. • Religious education (RE) is exceptionally well led and monitored. All are challenged to think deeply about world faiths, including Christianity. As a result, pupils demonstrate extensive knowledge and understanding of a variety of beliefs and worldviews. RE makes an excellent contribution to the flourishing of pupils.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the deeply embedded Christian vision continues to be the motivation and steer for all leaders to enable the ongoing flourishing of pupils and adults. • Build on the school's existing outreach work as a hub of excellence. This will enable the school's exceptional vision and excellent RE to have a wider impact.

Inspection findings

The vision, based on St Peter's life, unquestionably unlocks 'minds that learn, hearts that love and faith that gives'. The school's 'values wheel' contains twelve Christian values, centred with love. It is referred to constantly as the language of the school and is highly visible all around the building. Each spoke of the wheel is linked to a Bible verse and is known well and quoted by all. All pupils, including the very youngest, respond exceptionally well to this visual representation of the vision and its associated values. The vision and example of St Peter, are at the forefront of leaders' minds in all strategic decisions. They give numerous examples to illustrate how the vision enables people to thrive and flourish. For instance, they support staff by investing heavily in training and coaching to further enhance their professional development. This practical outworking of the vision supports everyone in the school community by encouraging all to use 'helping hands'. Governors ensure that the vision is monitored regularly. This is achieved by frequent visits to the school to listen and respond to the views of pupils, parents and staff. The school's outward looking approach means that their expertise enhances opportunities for flourishing within other schools in the trust and diocese.

The dynamic curriculum provides rich opportunities for pupils to explore their own spirituality and look beyond themselves. Forest school and many other outdoor activities inspire all to reflect on the greater mysteries of life. This is evident in the numerous environmental projects undertaken at the school. For example, a wild flower meadow planted last year, enables everyone to appreciate the beauty of nature. The school's innovative approach to spirituality is enriched through a deep breadth of opportunities within the curriculum. This ensures pupils can articulate a clear understanding of what spirituality means to them, thus enhancing their own development. The many pupil leadership groups offer valuable opportunities for pupils to make decisions and lead several areas of school life. These are highly valued and include groups such as Charity Leaders, Cool Climateers and School Environment Leaders. Pupils decide themselves if they want to organise and run a lunchtime club. One pupil started her own Monday prayer club to which several pupils now attend regularly. Consequently, all have opportunities to write their own prayers and this has a positive impact on their spiritual flourishing.

Pupils use their wisdom to be advocates of change in their local area and to show they have 'hearts that love'. They engage in a commendable range of fundraising and charitable partnerships. These include support for the Marine Conservation Society and Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue. Activities such as taking care of the pond, fish and chickens offer valuable leadership opportunities. Links with the community are strong and mutually beneficial. These include visits to the local care home to sing to the residents. Pupils send cards and letters, warmly inviting them to the annual St Peter's Day celebration.

The embedded perspective of being global citizens contributes deeply and meaningfully to the spiritual life of everyone in the school community. A large world map, which highlights areas of global suffering, leads to spontaneous opportunities for pupil reflection and prayer. Pupils undertake many projects for others, often initiated by themselves. For instance, a group attended a climate summit organised by the trust at a local secondary school. As a result of this, a group of pupils felt inspired to start their own climate club at St Peter's. Pupils learn about apartheid, slavery, displacement and the prejudice suffered by Mary Seacole. Because of this, they have a heightened awareness of social justice. This, in turn, empowers them to have relentless compassion for others and to offer helping hands whatever people's circumstances. Difference is celebrated through the school's outstanding initiative, 'people who inspire us'. Pupils encounter resilience and courage by meeting a wide range of visitors




who have overcome barriers to life. This has a powerful, aspirational impact on everyone at the school.

Inspired by the vision, leaders prioritise pupil and staff wellbeing through innovative and creative strategies. One such initiative, the 'five keys to happiness and wellbeing', has had a profound impact on good mental health at St Peter's. The daily 'Space Makers' mindfulness activity also makes a meaningful contribution to wellbeing. Leaders provide valued opportunities for staff to develop their careers, including preparing them to be future leaders of Church schools. A sense of joy permeates through the Friday staff band session to which all are invited. Through planned activities, which intentionally invest in adults' wellbeing, staff flourish at St Peter's.

Excellent collective worship has a positive impact on the entire school community and sits at the heart of school life. It is life-affirming and is a time of spiritual renewal for both adults and children. There is a rich culture of deep reflection that is readily expressed. The partnership with St Peter's church is exceptionally strong and the vicar visits regularly. His contribution to worship and school life is immense, inspiring pupils and adults in their leadership and worship. His role in the school's shared understanding of spirituality is particularly impactful. The school song, written by a former pupil, is a beautifully moving interpretation of the school's vision and values. It is another way in which younger or more vulnerable pupils can gain a real understanding of the vision. Weekly celebration worship is valued by all and powerfully enhances the aspirational culture, which permeates throughout the school. Pupils, as well as parents and grandparents enjoy these events enormously.

RE is a powerful expression of the Christian vision. It is woven through the curriculum, which is boldly imaginative and academically rigorous. Pupils learn about Christians worldwide from their work with the Open Doors charity. They have an excellent understanding of faiths such as Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. A rich programme of visits to different places of worship helps to broaden pupils' understanding of world religions. RE develops pupils' religious literacy outstandingly well and is sequenced skilfully in an age-appropriate way. Robust monitoring and assessment systems in place demonstrate that progress is very strong across all abilities. Moderation with other schools shows that standards are very high in RE.

St Peter's school exemplifies what it means to be an excellent Church school. The rhythm of life at the school is infused with the boldness and hope of St. Peter. The extraordinary impact of its Christian vision can be seen at every turn.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>The ambitious curriculum, brought to life through exceptional teaching and learning, leads to excellent progress. Staff go out of their way to support pupils considered to be vulnerable in their learning. As a result, pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) progress particularly well. More able pupils are challenged to achieve beyond that expected for their age. The excellent quality of work seen in their books confirms that all pupils at St Peter's flourish in RE.</p>			
Information				
School	St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Cassington	Inspection date	21 March 2023	
URN	140915	VC/VA/Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Oxford	Pupils on roll	97	
MAT/Federation	Eynsham Partnership Academy			
Headteacher	Jon Jeffries			
Chair of Governors	Anne Armitage			
Inspector	Jenny Earp	No.	288	