



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Swanbourne Church of England School	
Address	Winslow Road, Swanbourne, Milton Keynes, MK17 0SW
School vision	
<p>'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven'. Matthew 5:16.</p> <p>With honesty, respect, forgiveness and love, we persevere, succeed and shine.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision of Swanbourne Church of England School unites the members of its community as they shine together. Strong leadership ensures that it is highly effective in encouraging pupils and adults to flourish. • The curriculum is designed so that all pupils shine. Those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are fully supported as part of an inclusive culture. • Collective worship is enriched by productive partnerships with local church communities. Frequent times of reflection inspire pupils to ask deep questions and grow spiritually. • Shaped by the vision and associated values, pupils are challenged to respond to issues of local and global injustice. They are motivated to be agents of change, demonstrating respect and love in their actions. • The religious education (RE) curriculum is well-balanced and covers a diverse range of topics. Discussing 'big questions' enables pupils to gain confidence in their understanding and self-expression. Effective assessment ensures that they build on their knowledge and thrive in their learning. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed a clear understanding of spirituality within the school curriculum. This is so that pupils and adults have increasingly deeper opportunities to explore their own spiritual growth. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The ambition for everyone to shine at Swanbourne School motivates a caring and aspirational community. Its Christian vision and associated values are deeply rooted in biblical teaching. This ensures that pupils and adults are nurtured as they grow together. A deep understanding of honesty and forgiveness encourages pupils to behave well, as they respect each other. Highly skilled and determined leaders create numerous opportunities for them to shine and celebrate their successes which inspire others. Parents rightly share how the determination to meet all pupils' needs creates a culture of care and love. The vision supports thoughtful decision making and provides the basis for policies. A team of dedicated governors monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision. They use this research to inform leaders in developing the quality and effectiveness of the school. In partnership with The Three Schools Federation, staff receive training to further their skills and knowledge. A</p>	

compassionate approach to the promotion of wellbeing empowers staff as valued members of the community.

Leaders have designed a vision-driven curriculum that is broad and balanced. Exciting and challenging lessons are designed to inspire pupils to explore topics through investigation. This enables them to develop resilience as learners. Frequent visits provide inspiration for deep thinking. For example, a trip to a science museum challenges an understanding of creation and science. Teachers engage pupils in discussions about their learning. This develops curiosity and confidence as they share their responses. Whilst times of reflection motivate pupils to explore meaning, a clear understanding of spirituality is not embedded. This limits the depth of their spiritual growth. Provision for pupils with SEND is strong. Motivated by the vision for all to shine, they are nurtured by supportive adults so that they share their learning. A reward system that informs parents includes a 'headteacher's tea party' for special success. This emphasises the value of encouragement as part of an inclusive culture. Governors take time to monitor the vision-led curriculum and work with leaders to ensure that it is effective. This is reflected in the high standards achieved across the school.

Collective worship at Swanbourne centres around an expression of the Christian vision. Pupils grow in confidence through their involvement and leadership of many aspects of worship. Frequent moments are taken to celebrate how well they live out the school values. These moments are shared with parents, increasing a true sense of achievement. Leaders carefully plan worship that includes moments of stillness and reflection. This promotes spiritual growth for pupils and adults. Strong links with the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education enriches this provision. The importance of prayer and reflection is recognised. A pre-school club develops this aspect of worship. Pupils respond to their thoughts in daily worship by recording ideas on notes that are shared with leaders. Class worship journals celebrate meaningful responses so that members learn from each other as they grow spiritually. Productive partnerships with local church communities provide a variety of experiences. For example, a practical exploration of Easter at church enriches an understanding of both the sacrifices Christians believe that Jesus made and the joy of his resurrection.

Positive relationships are built upon the core values of honesty, respect, forgiveness and love. Pupils live out these values with each other so that behaviour is exemplary. This is celebrated through weekly 'shine awards' that motivate compassion and perseverance. Leaders appreciate the significance of the school in its local community and foster strong partnerships. Investment in minibuses provides pupils with access to before and after school activities across the federation. This enriches their experiences through sport and music. Mental Health First Aid training ensures staff are skilled in supporting individual needs. This means that pupils are ready to learn in a caring environment. Staff and parents celebrate the impact of pastoral counselling that underpins wellbeing. Difficulties are addressed quickly so that pupils and adults feel valued and flourish.

The vision for all to shine supports an understanding of the importance of challenging injustice. Pupil voice groups such as the Courageous Advocate Team show responsibility in encouraging others to help those in need, locally and internationally. They demonstrate care in their community, delivering Christmas cards to local residents. Pupil leaders take pride in representing their school at monthly community events. This raises awareness of how they improve their local area and be effective agents for change. Pupils are aware of sustaining the environment. A daily mile run around the site prompted some to initiate litter picking as they appreciate their role in protecting God's planet. A meaningful partnership with schools in Gambia promotes acts of compassion and deepens an understanding of diversity and culture. The importance placed on building such relationships fulfils the vision to shine before others.

A creatively designed curriculum for RE has been crafted by skilled leaders. Collaboration within the federation enriches this work. This enables sequenced lessons to stem from teaching in Early Years.

Training from the diocese has positively influenced the delivery of the subject, so that learning is proactive and uses deep questions to challenge thinking. Pupils investigate a variety of worldviews which enables them to debate areas such as creation through a variety of lenses. Strong recall is demonstrated in discussions and assessment is used effectively to show clear progress. Pupils enjoy investigating Christianity as a living faith around the world. They passionately share examples such as Ethiopian views of Jesus and festival celebrations in Mexico. Well-framed assessment demonstrates a broad understanding of a range of faiths and pupils articulate a detailed knowledge of significant Jewish religious language. Leaders benefit from extensive training that they pass on to staff. This ensures that teachers deliver inspiring lessons with confidence. Governors evaluate the monitoring made by leaders and correctly appreciate the strength of progress made by pupils as they thrive in their learning.

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

Information			
Inspection date	19 June 2024	URN	110451
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	121
Diocese	Oxford		
MAT/Federation	The Three Schools Federation		
Executive Headteacher	David May		
Chair	Kaye Rudd		
Inspector	Keith Farquhar	No.	2143