

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Trinity St Stephen Church of England VA First School	
Address	Vansittart Road, Windsor, SL4 5DF

School vision
<p>Our Christian vision of ‘Thriving and Achieving within our Caring, Christian environment’ is supported by the Bible verse, ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.’ John 15:12.</p> <p>We continue to use our Christian values to help us all understand ways in which we can follow Jesus’ commandment of loving one another as He has shown us.</p> <p>Values: Compassion, Trust, Friendship, Wisdom, Peace and Fellowship</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school’s vision, which is firmly rooted in Bible teaching, meets the needs of the increasingly diverse community exceptionally well. Leaders act as role models by living out the Christian vision in actions and decisions taken. • Trinity St Stephen is highly inclusive. All are welcomed at the school within a caring and nurturing environment. • Collective worship has a positive impact on the lives of pupils and adults within the school community. A mutually beneficial relationship with local churches makes a significant contribution to spiritual experiences. • Pupils and adults flourish at Trinity St Stephen because they are treated well. Leaders have established a durable culture of wellbeing for members of the school community. • Religious education (RE) has a high profile. It offers pupils a wide-ranging experience and enables them to develop a good understanding of religions and worldviews.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a shared understanding and language for spirituality across the school. This is to further enhance experiences of spiritual flourishing for pupils and adults. • Develop assessment systems in RE. This is to enable leaders at all levels to know how well pupils are learning over time.
Inspection findings
<p>The Christian vision is articulated effectively by pupils and adults. Embedded values accompany the understanding of this. During their five years at Trinity St Stephen, pupils are exceptionally well nurtured and cared for by dedicated leaders. Adults and pupils articulate the biblical roots of the vision with confidence, rightly acknowledging its inclusive nature. This motivates them to thrive and achieve by living out the Christian vision. It encapsulates the whole school community in a shared purpose. Leaders act as powerful role models of the vision and consistently live it out. Every pupil is known, loved and nurtured. Consequently, recent changes to the range of backgrounds of those attending the school are fully embraced. Governors monitor the vision through school visits, by</p>



conducting surveys and by asking pupils and adults for regular feedback. As a result, leaders, including governors, acquire a clear understanding of the impact of the vision on pupils and adults.

Developments to the curriculum ensure that the vision is central to learning across the school. As such, academic achievement is a priority for leaders. One example is the addition of units of work about ecology which encourage pupils to care for the world. A stimulating learning environment is crafted by adults to celebrate pupils' work in many subjects. Examples of writing, colourful artwork and displays of photographs showcase the variety of learning experiences. This is enhanced by a wide range of extra-curricular experiences and educational visits. There are chances across the day for pupils to experience moments of spiritual development. These are woven within many subjects. There is not a shared language to articulate spirituality at the school. As a result, there are some missed opportunities to harness spiritual moments for pupils and adults. Support is guaranteed for those considered to be vulnerable, which means that they thrive and achieve. Vulnerable pupils, and their families, are loved and barriers to learning and engagement are overcome. Governor's decisions to fund additional staffing and resources at key points are examples of the vision in action. A family link worker, funded partly by the parish, makes a significant contribution to enabling the most vulnerable to engage.

The school's Christian foundation is the starting point when planning acts of worship. Leaders and clergy craft a rich programme building people's understanding of the vision and associated values. This strong partnership ensures that worship marks Christian festivals and that the church has an active part in this provision. Family worship and staff prayers are two examples of the deeply connected relationship between the school and local churches. Parents rightly acknowledge that this relationship is beneficial to all. There is a rich variety of inclusive Christian worship on offer over the year. Themes inspire those present to find out more and harness moments of spiritual growth. Older pupils thrive in planning acts of worship for their peers and make contributions to its evaluation. Worship seeks to involve everyone as it is invitational. Opportunities for prayer and reflection are taken by those present, who feel welcomed and included. Pupils acquire an impressive knowledge of biblical teaching and make connections between stories and their lives. The spiritual development of pupils and adults is enhanced by the richness of the worship life at Trinity St Stephen.

A strong culture of care and nurture permeates the school. The vision calls for everyone to, 'love one another'. This is paramount for leaders. As a result of being treated well, pupils' behaviour is excellent. Incidents of bullying are extremely rare and self-regulation is encouraged. Due to the high profile of the Christian values of fellowship and friendship, pupils get along well together. Rewards are issued for demonstrating these positive virtues. The result is a happy and thriving school. Leaders have made significant changes to provision to welcome those with complex needs. As one parent rightly said, 'nothing is too much trouble'. From the first day of school, pupils and families are welcomed at Trinity St Stephen. The wellbeing and good mental health of the school community are priorities for leaders. Policies and practices are rooted in the vision. As a result, staff are clear about the unwavering support for pupils to overcome obstacles to engaging in school life. The harmonious staff team values the open-door policy of leaders.

The diverse school community is included, respected and welcomed. The local community and the changing context of those attending the school are paramount to leaders. This is fully embraced by the vision. Leaders have changed the admissions policy to be in line with this and to become wholly inclusive. Leaders have developed a range of occasions to engage in a variety of charitable actions. This is used to develop an age-appropriate understanding of tackling injustice locally and internationally. It is underpinned by the Bible verse within the vision to love one another. Pupils know that they are loving one another by focusing on treating others with respect. A range of leadership opportunities empower pupils to learn about tackling injustice and act as champions for



good causes. The work of pupils in the school council and eco council are examples of pledging to make a difference. The impact of this pupil group is seen in school, at home and in the local community. Pupils are called to action through litter picking and projects in partnership with the church supporting those who are homeless in Windsor. They speak with confidence about the difference their actions can make for others. A linking project with a Christian school in southern India contributes to pupils' understanding of their place in the world.

The leadership of RE is effective. RE is well planned and sequenced. When pupils move on to middle school, they have already encountered a curriculum that covers religions and worldviews in depth. Big questions encourage pupils' curiosity. The work in books, displays in classrooms and feedback from pupils indicates that RE has a high profile. The curriculum is enhanced by RE days which connect the vision and values with key festivals from a range of religions. Pupils enjoy learning from peers about their religion and views. Staff have been given high quality professional development from the diocese. The RE lead monitors teaching and learning effectively. Governors visit lessons to see the curriculum in action. Supportive meetings held by the diocese ensure that leaders are up to date with developments in RE.

Teaching in RE is good. There are a variety of activities crafted for RE lessons that are age-appropriate and stimulating. Pupils make effective progress in RE because of the rich curriculum. However, leaders, including governors, do not utilise a fully robust assessment system to verify how well pupils are achieving over time.

The inspection findings indicate that Trinity St Stephen Church of England Voluntary Aided First School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	11 March 2024	URN	110023
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	139
Diocese	Oxford		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Louise Lovegrove		
Chair	Trevor Kirby		
Inspector	Toby Long	No.	896