

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Winslow Church of England School	
Address	Lowndes Way, Winslow, MK18 3EN
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>'In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.' (Matthew 5:16)</p> <p>Our vision is 'Let your light shine'. The rainbow symbolises God's unconditional love for each individual. We seek to reflect that light in all we do; in our community, both local and wider, in our communication, both word and action, with curiosity and courage, and with care and compassion for everyone, inspiring a love of learning.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is highly effective. It upholds pupils and adults in the light of Christ, so that all shine. The Bible roots of the vision are less evident in leaders' strategic work. • Support for positive mental health, wellbeing and for those with additional needs is exemplary. Pupils and adults thrive in this community, which is securely built on love. • There is a wealth of provision for personal and spiritual growth. The impact of this is limited as there is no shared definition or language of spirituality. • Collective worship unites the school community and is a powerful vehicle to explore the Christian vision and values. Well-considered planning is now in place to extend the explicit Christian basis for worship. • Religious education (RE) is a significant strength of the school. The subject enables pupils to look beyond themselves and their local area. Pupils demonstrate an impressive knowledge and understanding of the topics studied.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make further reference to the Christian vision and its Bible roots in leaders' monitoring. This is so these more explicitly inform the development of the school as a church school. • Establish a shared definition and understanding of spirituality so that staff may plan for spiritual flourishing with increased clarity and confidence. • Ensure that acts of worship are more consistently focused on Christian and biblical teaching. This is so that pupils and staff deepen their experience of Christian-based worship.

Inspection findings

With its current leadership, Winslow school is shining with increased power and brightness. The review of the Christian vision centred on improving learning outcomes. This is evident in the positive way pupils and staff engage with the rapid pace of change. The addition of 'inspiring a love of learning' to the well-established vision is key to meeting the needs of all at Winslow. The leadership team, working with governors, local authority and diocesan colleagues, has made courageous decisions based on the vision. First among these is the extension of pre-school sessions to include three afternoons. This is in response to the commitment that the wider community benefits from the school. Governors, some of whom are new to the role, are deeply committed to the school and the town around it. Winslow town is itself on a hill so the beacon of light from the school is a constant point of orientation in the local area. As a parent said, 'Winslow is our town and our school.' Governors work with leaders, staff and pupils to determine the strategic direction of the school. In their visits, they note where they see evidence of 'shining'. This worthwhile monitoring does not yet translate into consideration at governing board meetings or fully drive the ongoing development of the school.

In a relatively short time, leaders are effecting profound change to the curriculum and are consequently raising aspirations. This is because of the vision to instil a love for learning. It is very much to leaders' credit that the rate of change has been managed with sensitivity to staff workload and wellbeing. This is a mark of deep Christian-based leadership where the leaders are also the servants. Thus, compassion and courage are shown together, both moving the school forward. Similarly, the work to support pupils who are more vulnerable is an outworking of unconditional love, integral to the vision. The rainbow image helps all ages to understand the promise of God's love for all people.

Pupils enjoy school. Their enthusiasm for learning and sharing time together is clear. They bubble and sparkle with delight in being part of the Winslow family. Families place their trust and have great confidence in the school. Improving attendance figures demonstrate this. It is clear that partnerships with families are of paramount importance. Parents appreciate this, some citing examples of when staff have been there for them in a time of personal loss or need. Within the curriculum, pupils learn about the needs of others. They care deeply and will challenge inequality with determination to make a positive difference. In some cases, pupils themselves inspire and initiate action in the service of others. The school supports local causes and international charities. Pupils campaign for 'toilet twinning' in Zambia and Afghanistan as well as good causes closer to home. Contact with older neighbours to the school brings different ages closer and ignites genuine interest across the generations. In this way, the light generated by the school shines on other parts of the community.

Pupils behave very well. They are delightful company and express themselves with great maturity and confidence. The school supports those pupils and adults who have additional social, personal or learning needs. Staff are actively encouraged to pursue their interests and several gain advanced professional qualifications as a result. Support for positive mental health and wellbeing are exemplary. 'Nurture nooks' and reflection spaces around the school and in classes support pupils to feel safe and secure. They also cement the Christian foundations of the school as reflection areas in corridors are strongly biblically themed. As a result of the focus on reflection, pupils learn from their mistakes and see every day as a fresh start. Spirituality is woven into the school day and clearly impacts positively on pupils' self-esteem. Activities like 'stilling' encourage personal spiritual growth. Winslow was a pilot school for a diocesan programme known as 'Space Makers'. However, while opportunities for spiritual growth occur, these have more limited impact as the school does not yet have

confidence to articulate what it means by spiritual development.

Collective worship binds the school community together. In the last year it has grown in significance and clearly provides spiritual nourishment. A Christian greeting and blessing frame worship. The words said together are important to pupils and staff as they express the familiar vision and values. Pupils state that worship inspires them and helps them to express their thoughts and feelings. Time for worship is, therefore, valued by pupils and adults. Singing is joyful and prayer or time for reflection are offered daily. Expert musical and practical input from members of the local church enhances the explicitly Christian aspects of worship. The new vicar is already described with affection, and he is warmly welcomed into the Winslow school family. The school marks the main Christian festivals, so pupils are familiar with a number of Anglican traditions of worship. They distinguish 'assembly' from 'worship' and encounter both of these over the week. Long standing worship resources are lighter on Christian and Bible themes. In response, leaders have created comprehensive plans for worship to ensure this omission is addressed. At this time, these plans are at an early stage of implementation.

Rarely do pupils of all ages in primary school talk with such confidence of their learning in RE. A very young pupil spoke with authority: 'The Christian Bible is in two parts, the Old and New Testament and the Psalms, the songs or poems of King David, divide these.' It is abundantly clear that RE is a highlight of the curriculum. Staff are well supported by the RE leaders, past and present. As a result, lessons are exciting and inspire pupils to see their place in our diverse, multi-faith world. Learning is deep. Pupils flourish in their understanding of the similarities as well as differences across a range of religions. Work in books confirms the high priority given to the subject. Due to manageable assessment systems, teachers know how pupils are making progress. In this way RE makes a lasting contribution to how pupils shine. In addition to the knowledge gained, the excellent use of 'I wonder' activities enable pupils to think deeply about the topics studied. These were developed with support from the diocesan adviser.

Winslow school is on a rapid journey of development. The Christian vision is effective in shining light onto the next steps of that journey.

Information			
School	Winslow Church of England School	Inspection date	27 April 2023
URN	110449	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Oxford	Pupils on roll	374
Headteacher	Samantha Dimpleby		
Chair of Governors	David Shaw		
Inspector	Allyson Taylor	No.	768