

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Barnabas Church of England Primary School

Vision

‘To soar on wings like eagles’ Isaiah 40:31

We are Adventurous, Wise and Encouraging - AWESome!

Our vision is to cultivate adventurous, independent thinkers who embrace challenge and possibilities. To promote wisdom through great teaching and an excellent curriculum, enriched by philosophical and spiritual depth. To foster care and compassion for ourselves, each other, and the natural world, within an inclusive and international community.

St Barnabas Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- Leaders live out the clear and embedded Christian vision across school life and ensure that this drives decision making. It allows pupils and adults to ‘soar like eagles.’
- Religious education (RE) gives pupils a clear understanding of religions and worldviews, including Christianity. Pupils are confident to explore, question and make connections with their own lives.
- Leaders and governors ensure the Christian vision underpins the broad curriculum. Pupils, including those who are vulnerable or who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), enjoy rich and immersive learning experiences.
- Collective worship creates a strong sense of inclusion across the school. Pupils and adults welcome the time to come together, and it has a positive impact on their spiritual growth.
- Partnerships with the church and external agencies are extremely productive. They effectively support pupils and adults in developing a strong sense of purpose and belonging.

Development Points

- Strengthen the approach to spiritual development across the curriculum. This is so adults and pupils are increasingly confident in expressing their thoughts as they develop their spiritual awareness.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision is well known and understood by the St Barnabas' school community. Leaders promote a culture where pupils are known, valued, and supported. This reflects the school's distinctive small-school ethos in the heart of a bustling city. Academic achievement and personal development are equally prioritised. This ensures pupils 'soar like eagles' to become confident learners and responsible citizens. The development of the vision and values, alongside the school community, demonstrates strong collective ownership. Leaders use the school's 'AWESome' values of adventurous, wise and encouraging to shape the rapid improvements made within the school. This approach builds trust and deepens understanding of the school's purpose. Alongside governors, leaders monitor effectively the impact of the Christian vision and evaluate how it shapes behaviour and decision-making. As a result, the vision unites the community, strengthens relationships, and enables both pupils and adults to flourish together. The celebration of the vision through the school's mural visibly affirms the values, reinforcing its Christian identity within the wider community.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum enables pupils to succeed in their learning and personal development. This strongly reflects the school's Christian vision. It is designed so that pupils explore big questions about life and meaning. Leaders plan learning so that pupils, including the most vulnerable, flourish academically and personally. Staff take ownership of the ambitious curriculum ensuring it promotes adventurous learning and deep thinking. Pupils are encouraged to develop wisdom and understanding of themselves and others. As a result, pupils develop confidence, curiosity, and a sense of purpose. However, pupils' understanding of spirituality is limited. This makes it difficult for them to express their thoughts and feelings. Underpinned by the curriculum, the school's inclusive ethos is valued by pupils and adults. Equitable access is ensured through thoughtfully planned extracurricular activities. For instance, they support families by running clubs before as well as after school. These experiences deepen friendships and foster bonds of togetherness and empathy among pupils. Staff and pupils ensure that new arrivals to school are supported and embraced. Both identify 'golden moments' when the vision and values are observed in daily life. These are celebrated on the red-carpet during worship. This encourages pupils to want to make a positive impact on the world.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually by providing regular opportunities for reflection, inspiration, and time together as a community. Daily worship is invitational enabling adults and pupils to engage in ways that respect their own beliefs and experiences. Based on the 'AWESome' values, the clear structure and understanding of worship practices create opportunities for collective and individual reflection. Effective and regular monitoring by leaders, including governors, ensures they remain relevant and engaging. Worship themes are carefully planned around the school's Christian vision and values and follow the church calendar. This helps pupils understand the significance of Christian festivals and teachings while connecting them to everyday life and personal development. Pupils are invited to take part in worship by contributing to key elements including prayers. This enhances pupils' engagement and participation. The strong relationship with St Barnabas Church enriches worship experiences and strengthens the sense of belonging within the wider community. Through these occasions, pupils and adults deepen their understanding of spirituality and grow together as a reflective and supportive community.



Vision and School Culture

Using the Christian vision, leaders shape a culture where pupils and adults are treated with dignity, care, and respect. They ensure that policies and daily practices are grounded in the vision. This creates an environment where inclusion and belonging are central. Pupils and staff feel safe and valued. Staff proactively support pupils, families, and colleagues during challenging times. Leaders draw on local partnerships and specialist expertise when needed. This ensures that vulnerable individuals receive additional care and practical support. For example, some pupils require additional support at the start and end of the day. This helps promote equality and ensures that they do not feel left out. Pupils rightly describe the school as friendly and welcoming. They celebrate each other's similarities and differences, reinforcing the belief in treating others as you would like to be treated. This compassionate approach demonstrates the school's commitment to living out its Christian values in meaningful ways. The celebration of diversity further strengthens an ethos where everyone is respected, enabling members of the school community to flourish.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The school's Christian vision fosters a culture of justice and responsibility. Staff encourage pupils to understand their rights and responsibilities within the school community. Leaders ensure that pupils have meaningful opportunities to become active citizens who can influence positive change. Pupils are enthusiastic to take on roles of responsibility such as the school council. This helps them to be able to speak confidently about issues such as fairness, justice, and caring for the environment. Curriculum topics deepen pupils' understanding of injustice. As a result, they develop confidence in expressing their views and taking responsible action. This is exemplified in the charity that pupils voted to support. They wanted an international charity that, given recent events, helps families in war-torn environments. Pupils have a clear understanding of how their actions and fund-raising help others access food, shelter and education. This enables them to grow in empathy. Pupils take responsibility to welcome new starters. As this is a regular occurrence, they value supporting each other and making school a welcoming place to be. Staff promote a mindset that encourages pupils to show gratitude and forgiveness and to consider the impact of their choices. Through these experiences, pupils and adults learn to act with empathy and social awareness, demonstrating how the Christian vision inspires them to contribute positively to the wider world.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum is effective due to the high-quality planning and teaching. RE is taught in blocks of 2-day events across the year. Leaders ensure this meets the needs of the statement of entitlement. They continually review and adapt the curriculum teaching sequence to maximise pupils' learning experiences. The broad and comprehensive approach to RE enables pupils to explore and shape their understanding of Christianity as a living global religion. A distinctive feature of the curriculum is the numerous questions in each topic. This approach encourages pupils to investigate, reflect and evaluate. As a result, pupils deepen their understanding of worldviews, religions and spirituality. Regular engagement with the diocese ensures that leaders are informed by best practices. Leaders, including governors, evaluate the impact of RE and provide feedback. They validate the continuous improvement in teaching quality, positively supporting its ongoing development.

Pupils benefit from good quality creative teaching. This was exemplified by Key Stage 2 pupils exploring Easter through verses in the Bible. Clear assessment measures are used at the end of the different units of work. This ensures that staff have a clear picture of pupil's attainment and the good progress they make in RE. Pupils' books reflect the opportunities they have to develop their knowledge of worldviews and religions.

Information

Address	Hart Street, Jericho, Oxford, OX2 6BU		
Date	11 March 2026	URN	123211
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	136
Diocese	Oxford		
Headteacher	Beccy Harris		
Chair of Governors	Charlie Arbuthnott		
Inspector	Rob Dean		