

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

All Saints Church School, Primary VA

Vision

Jesus says, 'All things are possible, if you believe.' Mark 9:23

We believe by helping each other, we can grow to be the very best. Our community cares and nurtures all children in a safe learning environment by being open-minded to curiosity and creativity. We always show respect, love and perseverance to everyone within our school.

Like the good shepherd, if we remember all our school values and our individual gifts from God, we can build upon our wisdom for the greater community. Within a culture of compassion and friendship, we can make everything possible. All things will be possible if we believe.

Strengths

- The deeply embedded and shared Christian vision runs through strategic and everyday life in the school. It is the lifeblood that enables adults and pupils to thrive.
- In line with the vision, inclusion is a priority and strength of the school. Any barriers to learning or participating are removed and no-one is left out.
- Spiritual development is successfully encouraged across the school. Opportunities for individuals to reflect and consider their own feelings and beliefs, abound.
- Relationships across the school are strong between adults and pupils. This enables them to live and work together well, in a caring and calm learning environment.
- The school enjoys close and successful working relationships with St Catherine's parish church and the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust. This enriches both the curriculum offer for pupils and opportunities for spiritual development.

Development Points

- Extend pupils' exposure to global issues so that they can reflect on them and take action. This will support pupils to recognise their place in the world.



Inspection Findings

All Saints is an outstandingly inclusive school where pupils and adults thrive together. The Christian vision is the lifeblood of the school. It underpins governors' and leaders' decision making for the good of pupils and adults. The vision and school values of love, wisdom, perseverance, friendship, community and respect are known across the school. They are referred to in everyday life. For example, a child commented, 'I had to use wisdom there!' The trust and school visions are closely aligned and underpinned by the gospel message of God's love for every individual. In line with the Trust's vision, the school ensures that pupils and adults are encouraged to be the best they can be. Pupils are given opportunities and experiences which enrich their lives at school whilst teachers are inspired and supported to deliver them. This results in both happy and successful teaching and learning. Governors know their school and rigorously monitor its success as a church school. They visit regularly, supporting the vision and values, engage in an ethos committee and participate in learning and fun activities.

The vision inspires the school to deliver a creative curriculum. Staff ensure a safe learning environment where pupils can explore learning in different ways. Working together, they find that things are achievable. By being helpful and respectful towards each other, pupils and staff demonstrate the school's commitment to inclusion. Opportunities are offered to everyone, and obstacles to participation, whether financial, physical or emotional are overcome. The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities including choir, cross-country running and drawing. This, alongside wrap around care, supports families at the beginning and end of the day. All Saints has extensive, beautiful grounds with facilities for outdoor work and play. Forest school, sport, painting, reading and autumn walks inspire pupils to appreciate the amazing world God created. Collective worship also is held outdoors under the trees. Children of service families are supported through 'Dandelion Club' and leaders have built a Yurt in the grounds for their specific use. Here they can build friendships to support each other.

Collective worship is the most important time of day at All Saints. It is inclusive, invitational and inspirational. Pupils and staff enjoy this time of coming together to share and reflect on the weekly message. The programme for collective worship is underpinned by the school vision and planned around a half-termly rotation of the school's Christian values. Worship is varied and led by staff, pupils, the local vicar and visitors, including an 'Open the Book' team. The presentation of Bible stories including the parables of Jesus, especially through song and drama, are enjoyed and reflected upon. Inspired by worship, pupils took action to help care for God's world and planted bulbs in school and in a local National Trust property. Success is celebrated each week and pupils are proud of certificates awarded to recognise behaviour based on the school values. The whole school community shares an understanding of spirituality. Opportunities for individuals to develop spiritually are written into the curriculum such as pausing to observe wildlife in the school pond. Other occasions are spontaneous, like going for a walk when snow started falling. Reflection in collective worship is valued and designated classroom reflection areas are well-used for personal thought and prayer. A Year 6 pupil said that reflecting is eye-opening and expands the mind.

The Christian vision inspires a deeply embedded culture of respect. Strong, positive relationships across the school mean that adults and pupils live together well. Wellbeing is a priority for leaders and afternoons of yoga and sound-bathing provide times of calm for staff and pupils. All pupils are known and valued as individuals. They are recognised as having individual gifts from God to bring to the whole school community. Identified pupils are given personalised learning programmes. A range of extra targeted support enables pupils to access the curriculum. An emotional literacy support assistant (ELSA) successfully supports pupils' mental health. Staff are supported by leaders and thrive within a sensitive and challenging appraisal scheme. They are a closely knit team of friends who care for each other. They also go the extra mile to support families in times of need. Parents appreciate the open door that school leaders offer.



Following the school vision, pupils understand the importance of justice and their responsibility to use wisdom and love to benefit the world. Each year, the school council leads fundraising for a charity of their choice, such as the NSPCC. The school community also supports national and local charities such as Children in Need and the local foodbank. Pupil voice is a strength of the school demonstrating the vision in action. There is a range of opportunities for pupils to undertake roles of responsibility ranging from House Captains to Art Ambassadors and buddies. Democratically elected, pupils make a positive difference in their school. One pupil wrote to the head teacher asking to support children in Ukraine by making blankets. This was done by the mindful crochet club. Pupils are keen to make a positive difference in the world. Current opportunities for pupils to engage with international issues as global citizens, is more limited than it could be. In line with the vision of working together, the school enjoys close partnerships with the local church, trust and diocese. It benefits from encouraging and challenging support. The parish church is regarded as an extension of the school and supports school activities. The school and its families worship at the church for major festivals such as Christmas and Harvest.

Leaders ensure that religious education (RE) has a very high profile in line with the vision. It is treated as a priority, academic subject. The curriculum is carefully designed to ensure that new learning is based on prior knowledge. To support deeper learning, RE is delivered fortnightly for a whole afternoon. Pupils gain knowledge of different faiths and are given space and time to consider their personal beliefs and spirituality. Consequently, pupils respect the views of others and see Christianity as a global world faith. Pupils recognise that learning about different religions opens their minds to different views. This is important to them. Visits to special religious buildings including a synagogue and cathedral support understanding. The local church provides experiences at Easter and Christmas to enrich pupils' learning about these central Christian festivals.

Inspired by the vision, the quality of religious education is good. RE is well led and well taught with expert training and support from the local diocese. Assessment shows that pupils make good progress. Big questions and meditation encourage independent thought and challenge pupils appropriately. Pupils enjoy RE because it is stimulating and exciting. Teaching includes a range of approaches from lively debate in Year 6 to calm, immersive story telling with puppets, in Key Stage 1. Pupils say that spirituality days encourage them to think and feel close to God. Lying underneath hundreds of suspended white paper doves or making a pilgrimage to the church makes RE special. It contributes effectively to pupils' spiritual growth as they make links between religious ideas and their own lives.

Information

Address	Ladies Walk, Montacute, Somerset. TA15 6XG		
Date	13 November 2024	URN	143958
Type of school	Primary	No. of pupils	202
Diocese	Bath and Wells		
MAT	Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Sharon Bowditch		
Chair of Governors	Sarah Foy		
Inspector	Alison Appleyard		