

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Sutton Courtenay All Saints' Church of England Primary School	
Address	Bradstock`s Way, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4DA
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>'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock' (Matthew 7:24)</p> <p>We work to provide our children with strong foundations on which to build their lives through core values and the love of each other. As a school we live by our values, driven by the desire to work together as a community, to give all our children the strongest foundations on which to build their lives.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school lives out its Christian vision, enriching and supporting the lives of all families within the community. Modelled by the headteacher, staff demonstrate an uncompromising service, nurturing readiness to learn, respect and responsibility. • The mutually beneficial relationship between the school and the Ridgeway Education Trust supports leaders to be aspirational for all individuals. Governors monitor effectively to examine how the vision enables pupils to flourish academically and emotionally. • The subject leader for religious education (RE) has an ambitious vision which ensures pupils demonstrate a good knowledge of the Bible and Christian beliefs. Pupils share their respect for diversity and equality. Pupils only have a developing knowledge of major world faiths. • Relationships, based upon trust and compassion, uphold all adults, enabling them to grow professionally whilst serving the needs of the pupils. Supportive partnerships lead to improved practice and the nurturing of future Church school leaders. • Collective worship offers calm, inclusive opportunities to deepen pupils' knowledge of biblical stories and the teachings of Jesus. Wider opportunities for pupils to explore spirituality are being developed.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide pupils with further opportunities to reflect and pray at other times to collective worship. Enable pupils to express deep, individual responses, developing their spirituality and sense of wellbeing. • Increase governor monitoring to evaluate the impact of changes to religious education and to support the school in developing further opportunities for spiritual growth. • Invite members from a variety of faith communities to talk about the impact of beliefs on their lives in order to enrich pupils' understanding.



Inspection findings

Sutton Courtenay is a welcoming and inclusive school, sharing its vision to provide pupils with firm foundations for learning and life. The core values of Ready, Respectful and Responsible are underpinned by the verse from St Matthew's Gospel. Pupils understand what the vision teaches them now and how this relates to their future success. Governors work tirelessly to maintain the impact of the vision, collaborating with trustees from the Ridgeway Education Trust to secure academic flourishing for all.

Pupils' artistic interpretations of the vision are displayed to convey the significance of how the verse from Matthew's gospel strengthens the life of the school. Pupils describe a feeling of the vision making them feel strong and able to cope with mistakes. Leaders are sensitive to challenges within their local context and expertly pursue professional relationships within the trust and diocese to make further improvements. Particularly, the service provided by teachers from the Ridgeway Education Trust secondary schools enriches the curriculum with subject expertise, improving outcomes for all abilities. Those with responsibility for pupils with special needs access specialist support, ensuring all pupils are nurtured and supported with their learning. This is the school living out its vision, valuing all God's children.

The challenges of the pandemic prompted the school to think creatively about how the vision could support families. Teachers delivered food parcels and accessed funding within the local community to pay for laptops facilitating remote learning. For many, the school shines as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that the vision works to overcome difficulties, inspiring confidence for pupils and their families. Further support is provided for pupils moving into the school or at transition to secondary education. Parents value the expected activities, such as a first bus trip, within the pupil transition booklet, which encourages independence.

The ambitious curriculum relates to the values rooted in biblical teaching. Pupils clearly articulate how they use these to be ready to learn or how they can show respect for others. The vision forms a foundation for learning, to build pupils' understanding of their responsibility for their own successes and towards the wider community. These values motivate the school as a whole and drive improvement. Engagement in forest school activities offers younger pupils opportunities to delight in God's creation, taking risks whilst caring for each other. Teachers trust pupils to demonstrate respect for the natural environment whilst building confidence and resilience.

Leaders and governors continually encourage the pupils to challenge inequality. The school refers to Romans 12:16 'Have the same respect one for another, not minding high things but going along with the lowly; be not wise in your own eyes.' The school is working towards the Bronze Equalities Award, frequently communicating that pupils can make a difference. Pupils articulate how they use projects such as the science garden to demonstrate their respect for the natural world and contribute to sustainability.

The headteacher is a role model who nurtures kindness and restorative practice, so the behaviour of pupils is good. There is an air of calm purposeful learning where individuals feel safe and loved for who they are. Members of staff comment that the vision and relationships within the school make it possible to be resilient during the most challenging times. They feel valued and motivated to develop professionally.

Where there are local opportunities to participate in community events, pupils are encouraged to demonstrate their broader understanding of moral values. They contribute to the annual wreath laying at the local Remembrance service and with a dignified compassion make contributions to the local food bank. More widely, the pupils' sense of responsibility towards the environment prompts letters to world leaders, urging them to make wise scientific

decisions.

Pupils enthusiastically talk about their learning in RE. Due to the passion of the subject leader, the progression has improved. Supported by advisors from the diocese, there is now a well-planned syllabus which enables pupils to explore the beliefs and practices within a range of world faiths. Governors are informed of the developments to the RE syllabus. They are committed to supporting the subject leader, through professional development opportunities. Pupils are tentatively comparing religious beliefs but visits to a variety of places of worship or meeting members of faith communities are not yet fully in place. RE books show a variety of creative tasks. Pupils value opportunities to ask questions and debate their views.

Inspired by the vision, collective worship is calm and inclusive, enabling those present to experience spiritual growth. From the beginning, pupils are encouraged to be still and join in with prayers, if they wish to. Pupils demonstrate a knowledge of The Lord's Prayer and join in readily. Pupils have roles within worship such as lighting the candle and reading but do not have regular opportunities to create their own prayers to be shared with their peers. The singing spreads real joy within the room, with all contributing enthusiastically. Parents value being invited to celebrate the achievements of those presented with the star awards. In this way, the school lives out its vision of being a foundation for all to succeed.

Worship is enriched by local church parishioners leading Open the Book stories. As a result, pupils can articulate their understanding of a wide range of Bible stories. Pupils enjoy listening to prayers which are linked to the story of the week. Visits to the church support an understanding of Christian festivals and associated Anglican traditions. The church also provides prayer spaces for the pupils at times such as Pentecost. Pupils share their enjoyment of these experiences which give opportunities to celebrate their understanding of Christian celebrations.

Parents, staff, and pupils also speak fondly of Reverend Helen and her dedication to the school. She works with the headteacher to create effective plans for high quality, daily collective worship. Governors also share occasional evaluations of worship. They recognise the contribution this makes to ensuring the continuing Christian distinctiveness of the school. This enriches the school's vision for firm foundations for young people in the community.

Information			
School	Sutton Courtenay All Saints' Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	18 November 2022
URN	146941	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Oxford	Pupils on roll	204
Headteacher	Rachel Hornsey		
Chair of Governors	Rita Atkinson		
Inspector	Helen Crolla	No.	918