

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Vision

At Brimpton we are an inclusive church school who takes its inspiration from St Peter. John 21 3-19. The picnic on the beach celebrates that God holds each of us in his net of love. Our vision is always to provide a safe, happy and nurturing environment for our Brimpton family.

Brimpton 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.

Strengths

- The carefully chosen vision of the 'picnic on the beach' resonates strongly with the school community. The powerful image of each being held in God's net of love is shaped creatively by leaders, who know their community well. As a result, pupils and adults grow as individuals and work powerfully together.
- Brimpton is distinguished by the strength of relationships within the school and quality partnerships beyond the school gate. *Echoing the vision*, this 'warm embrace' leads to a welcoming and inclusive community that allows people to feel cared for and loved.
- A well-designed curriculum gives pupils rich opportunities to experience and ask questions about the world around them. Through pupils' individual and collective success, the school is fulfilling the vision to 'unlock their full potential'.
- The wellbeing of pupils and staff is at the heart of the school's mission. As a result, people feel valued and celebrated as individuals.
- The school's worship life is a joyful and invitational part of the school day. People are invited to make personal reflections based on a well-understood approach to spirituality. This leads to the growth of respect for the thoughts and opinions of others.

Development Points

- Extend opportunities for pupils to apply their knowledge and understanding of the injustice that they see in the world around them. This is to enable pupils to become independent advocates for change and to respond in action.
- In revising the curriculum for religious education (RE), ensure that it offers a challenging, broad and rich experience of learning about religions and world views. This will ensure that pupils encounter depth and diversity in their study of religion.



Inspection Findings

Brimpton takes its inspiration from the story of the risen Jesus meeting his disciples on the beach. The image of God's net of love is a powerful driver of the school's ethos. The vision is strikingly depicted in the school hall with fish, made by pupils and adults, held together in a net. It is lived out day by day through a welcoming ethos, caring relationships and inclusive practice. The graphic representation of the vision means that the community understands it very well. Leaders have a robust knowledge of the school's context. They place the vision at the centre of their decision-making processes. As a result, they prioritise the adaptations and support that pupils need, particularly those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The values of responsibility, love, forgiveness, respect and community stem from the vision and are woven through the school. Pupils and staff blossom as good citizens because of this. They are proud and happy to belong to the school's community. This is echoed by parents, who rightly value the school's inclusive and caring approach. Pupils feel safe and nurtured because staff know them well. Brimpton lives out its vision in strong partnerships with the church, diocese and local schools. For example, pupils' artwork and creative writing is proudly displayed in the local church. The warmth and shared understanding of the vision helps to bring the community into the heart of the school.

The vision is skilfully woven through the school's curriculum. Brimpton's approach to the curriculum is inclusive, using a themed approach which incorporates all classes. As a result, pupils are confident and articulate. They are inspired by the example of St Peter, who made mistakes and was forgiven. They become resilient because they recognise mistakes are part of the learning process. A rich programme of educational visits, including visiting a London gallery or singing at the O2, provides pupils with touchstone moments. The school works hard to ensure vulnerable pupils benefit from exciting opportunities they would not otherwise be able to access. Through these experiences, pupils are supported to grow. Pupils with SEND receive focused support and feel included. A well-understood approach to spirituality leads to pupils being given regular opportunities to think, pause and reflect. Therefore, pupils are able to ask big questions and can look outwards from their own experiences.

Pupils are encouraged to think about justice and responsibility through the curriculum and their role within this. This is evidenced through strong relationships that encapsulate the school's vision. Pupils are given multiple opportunities to lead and serve, such through their roles as worship leaders and mental health ambassadors. The school has been involved in mutually beneficial relationships with charities and local causes. By actively leading on some of these initiatives through their school council, pupils are beginning to consider advocacy beyond Brimpton. In encouraging pupils to look outward, the school is teaching them to cast the net of God's love wider. This has a greater impact at a local level, where partnerships with the community are strong. However, pupils have fewer opportunities to understand how they can act to challenge injustices on a wider map.

RE has a high profile within the life of the school. Strong leadership leads to a RE curriculum that is broad, balanced and well-sequenced. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic about their learning. They are given opportunities to study world religions in depth, including Christianity as a world faith. RE is a safe space in which pupils can debate and offer their own opinions. Diversity and difference are explored through a curriculum that is carefully evaluated and reviewed by school leaders. Units of work are adapted to suit the needs of mixed age classes. Bespoke staff training supports the curriculum, which is well resourced and planned. As a result, RE reinforces the school's vision and values. However, opportunities for learners to be challenged more deeply in their responses to worldviews and world religions are limited.



The outworking of the vision through worship is an invaluable part of the school's spiritual life. Pupils and staff are welcomed in a calm, inclusive and respectful space. They are made to feel part of something bigger, like the disciples on the shore. This enriches the spiritual growth of pupils and adults. Worship is well planned and monitored carefully by leaders. A close partnership with clergy enhances this provision. Pupils speak about its importance to them and appreciate the significance of prayer. This supports pupils to develop their understanding of the Christian values of responsibility, love, forgiveness, respect and community. Worship is made more relevant by linking current world events to these values. Invitational worship provides periods of personal reflection for pupils to think about the vision. Looking up in the hall, they can see this visually as a net with a shoal of fish. In this way, worship supports personal spiritual growth and complements the opportunities for its development across the curriculum.

A culture of care has been created by leaders, who place God's net of love over the school. Pupils have a voice and feel listened to in the school forums they attend. For example, pupils nominate their peers for special awards and celebrate achievements. Brimpton values the 'whole person'. This has a transformational effect on pupils' self-worth. They feel better about themselves and more confident in articulating their ideas. The school works tenaciously to remove barriers, including those beyond the school, to ensure that the pupils are happy. Changes, such as moving to a new class are handled proactively and sensitively. This ensures that pupils are less anxious when they experience change. The work that the school does by reaching out with 'supportive arms' is rightly appreciated by parents. Regular check-ins for pupils and adults are a hallmark of the school's inclusive practice. Staff wellbeing days and initiatives like 'feel-good Fridays' underpin the importance that the school places on people's health. Times to pause and places to reflect are part of the rhythm of the school day. Consequently, this leads to pupils and staff thriving in a safe, happy and nurturing environment.

Information

Address	Brimpton Lane, Brimpton, Reading, RG7 4TL		
Date	1 July 2025	URN	109954
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	47
Diocese and Methodist District	Oxford		
Headteacher	Heidi Davies		
Chair of Governors	Brenda Harding		
Inspector	Graham Shore		