

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Holy Trinity Church of England/Methodist VA Primary School	
Address	Broad Croft, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 OBD

School vision

Rooted in Christ, Growing Together”

Holy Trinity Primary School is a community which holds its Christian character very dear. We aim to provide education of the highest quality, in a Christian context, promoting Christian values by offering broad and rich experiences. This will prepare all of our children to be happy, successful adults, ready to make a confident, positive impact in the world. Here, adults and children alike are learning together, growing in their faith and understanding, ensuring that all feel included and special. Holy Trinity is a community where all children can flourish and bloom.

Underpinned by Ephesians 3:17-18
‘And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ

School strengths

- Inspirational leadership has strengthened the impact of the inclusive Christian vision enabling the rich and diverse community to ‘grow together’. This strongly affects pupils’ learning, behaviour and wellbeing.
- Worship is central to daily life at Holy Trinity because it provides meaningful moments in which all can flourish spiritually. This is due to the powerful impact of the vision.
- The school’s partnership with the local Anglican and Methodist churches has a very positive impact. This is evident through their valuable contributions to worship, and religious education (RE).
- Very effective leadership in RE enables pupils to learn through a challenging and relevant curriculum. This positively reflects the vision by valuing the diverse range of faiths, including Christianity, represented within the community.
- A set of school Christian values, rooted in the vision and widely understood creates a deeply supportive caring culture. As a result, the wellbeing of all is prioritised and adults and pupils treat each other very well.

Areas for development

- Ensure that robust systems are in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Christian vision. This is to identify areas for development and further strengthen the way the Christian vision drives the work of the school.
- Embed the school’s shared understanding of spiritual development and deepen experiences across the curriculum. This is to enable opportunities that can have a positive impact on pupils’ learning, wellbeing and spiritual flourishing.
- Raise the profile of global issues of equality and justice through the curriculum. This is so that pupils in general, feel equipped and empowered to engage in social action projects that can make a difference.

Inspection findings

Inspirational leadership has ensured that a deeply Christian vision is embedded at Holy Trinity. Christian love expressed through the words of St Paul, empowers the vision to be the unifying force of this rich and vibrant community. This has a very positive effect on pupils' learning and behaviour. The substantial partnership with the local Anglican and Methodist churches has a powerful impact on school life. Relevant continuing professional development is provided for all staff, which has beneficial outcomes on pupils' learning. Priority is given to the central role of collective worship and quality of RE. However, adequate systems are not in place for Church school evaluation. As a result, opportunities to further enhance flourishing are not always identified. Parents highly value the school's open friendly culture and the very warm welcome, particularly for new arrivals.

The school's curriculum is shaped by its vision and provides rich and creative experiences. It has been recently reviewed to ensure that the content is relevant, challenging and engaging. The curriculum is fully focussed on meeting the needs of all pupils. The leadership team and staff make bold decisions with the curriculum to help ensure that barriers to learning can be overcome. As a result of their actions, the potential of pupils identified as disadvantaged is being transformed. Consequently, pupils enjoy their learning and highly value their time at school. Opportunities across the curriculum are provided to develop pupils' wide range of talents and interests. The curriculum is enriched by a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. These include sports and the arts as well as 'Rock Solid' for sharing Bible stories. Experiences, such as residential visits enhance pupils' learning. Staff have an understanding of spirituality which is at an early stage of development. As a result, developing spirituality is an intrinsic part of daily life. However, there is not a structured plan in place to develop spiritual and ethical awareness across the curriculum.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school community, enabling all to flourish spiritually. This is because it is fully inclusive and strongly reflects the school's vision, 'growing together' rooted in Christ's love. As a result, it has a transformational impact on those present. It empowers and inspires pupils to feel special and confident to be themselves. Pupils' heartfelt and inspirational singing contrasts very effectively with moments of quiet and stillness. Prayer is integral to daily life at Holy Trinity. A prayer day, that included contributions from the Methodist minister, had a very positive impact. Pupils speak with animation about the beneficial aspects of prayer and its relevance to their lives on a personal level. This promotes a deep sense of spirituality that sustains and inspires all aspects of school life. Older pupils provide a warm welcome to everyone on entry to worship, promoting its culture of a caring Christian family. Words said at the start of worship reflect the vision and the Christian understanding of the Trinity. Members of the local Anglican and Methodist churches regularly lead worship. They bring Bible stories to life and link them effectively with the school's vision and values. The church, which is part of the school building, welcomes the whole school community to celebrate the main Christian festivals.

Strong, caring relationships, inspired by the vision and associated values are central to life at Holy Trinity. Pupils say that their values provide 'guidelines' for how to live, helping them make good choices with their behaviour. This is affirmed during the weekly 'well done worship' which have a very positive impact. Consequently, pupils feel they are helped to have 'happy and successful' lives. The vision provides pupils with a strong picture of life at Holy Trinity. They describe themselves as part of the 'Father's tree' whose roots bind them together in love. In this way, the vision promotes the concept of the school as a loving community. As a result, relationships are strong. Staff are a stable cohesive team, encouraged and supported by leaders who prioritise their mental health and wellbeing.

Diversity is highly celebrated, and inclusion practised in this multicultural and multi-faith school

community. The proportion of pupils who speak English as a second language is well above average and this represents 26 different home languages. A calm and respectful atmosphere permeates the school. Pupils learn from others within the school's own diverse community whose experiences of life have been very different. Carefully selected class reading books highlight issues of inequality and injustice in the world. Special curriculum activities such as those offered during 'black history month' inspire pupils to achieve well. As a result, pupils are passionate about causes such as racism and sexism. They spend time researching role models both nationally and globally, such as Rosa Parks. A pupil felt strongly about inequality in sport and plans to write to the Football Association. She is passionate about the need for equal access to football for girls. However, this is an isolated initiative. Pupils, more generally, do not feel motivated to engage in social action projects which would challenge injustice and inequality.

RE is recognised as an exciting and prominent subject at the heart of this Church school curriculum. It strongly reflects the vision by providing all pupils with broad and rich experiences in which all learn and 'grow together'. Pupils particularly value the opportunities provided to learn about a wide range of beliefs and world faiths including Christianity. Visits to places of worship are used well to bring the faiths of pupils to life. Regular visits to John Wesley's New Room in Bristol enhance pupils' learning about the Methodist movement. The curriculum content is well-planned and effectively balanced to meet the needs of all pupils. Teaching is motivating and challenging, ensuring that pupils are fully engaged, reflect deeply and critically explore their own religious and non-religious beliefs. The inspirational subject leadership ensure that RE has a very positive impact on life. Staff at Holy Trinity and those of other local schools within the diocese benefit from the leader's expertise. Effective assessment systems have been embedded for teachers to understand and implement pupils' next steps in learning. The school's practice has been recognised through the Widening Inclusion in RE (WIRE) award. Teaching and learning in RE is good due to the highly engaging curriculum. As a result, pupils respond enthusiastically making good progress in their learning. This is due to a concerted approach by staff to enabling all pupils, including those identified as disadvantaged, to flourish academically in RE.

The inspection findings indicate that Holy Trinity Church of England /Methodist Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	13 October 2023	URN	109249
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	201
Diocese	Bristol		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Stuart McClelland		
Chair	Stephen Colledge/Steven Honight		
Inspector	Daphne Spitzer	No.	37