

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Lacock Church of England VC Primary School

Vision

Love each other as I have loved you John 15:12

Our Christian vision is based on Jesus's command that we should love one another as he loves us. As a Church School, we believe our pupils receive an education in an environment that is distinctively Christian in character through daily acts of worship, times for prayer and reflection and our strong partnership with St Cyriac's Church Lacock. We pray that God helps us to look through his 'lens' of perfect love, where everyone is precious. We encourage each other to put this into action by having kind thoughts and using kind words and hands. Our vision influences and shapes all that we do.

Strengths

- The vision of the school has been carefully crafted to reflect the community in which it serves. It is clearly articulated and central to school life. Pupils and adults demonstrate the vision through the care and support they show one another.
- The curriculum reflects its Christian vision and informs strategic decisions, which empowers pupils to grow in confidence.
- Collective worship provides calm and reflective opportunities for personal spirituality. The distinctive school song and values are embedded in collective worship that is inspirational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage. Pupils and adults value the time to come together.
- The quality of relationships is a strength of this school. Positive relationships are at the heart of the school community. This enables pupils and adults to flourish even in challenging times.

Development Points

- Embed the revised whole school definition of spirituality to enhance explicit opportunities for spiritual development within the wider curriculum.
- Extend pupils' understanding of justice and social responsibility, empowering them to challenge injustice nationally and globally. This is to enable them to understand how to promote ethical choices and influence positive change beyond their community.
- Strengthen RE curriculum opportunities and provision for pupils to develop a deeper understanding of the impact of religious and non-religious worldviews.



Inspection Findings

Lacock's revised Christian vision is valued by the school community. 'God helps us to look through his 'lens' of perfect love,' drives leaders' actions and strategic planning. It develops confidence across the school and inspires staff to seek the best for everyone. It is the constant that has supported the school in unsettled times. The refined vision developed from its historical links is fully shared and embedded into the life of the school. Strong community links enable pupils to be proud of their heritage and school. A belief in the importance of kind and caring relationships is central to adult and pupil flourishing. Leaders provide support for pupils and families. The thread of Christian love expressed through the school vision and values underpins the school motto 'the Lacock Way'. This focus on kind hands and thoughts has a significant, positive impact on the lives of the pupils and their behaviour. Staff and pupils refer to it when taking care of each other, offering help and support. They are motivated to work together, inspired by the vision. This brings about frequent successes, both academically and personally.

The school's curriculum and extracurricular offer reflects the Christian vision that underpins the work of the school. Governors and staff have revised the vision to ensure it reflects the needs of the school community. Motivated by the vision they have recruited new senior staff and reviewed changes to curriculum design. All curriculum areas provide opportunities for reflection and spiritual development. Changes in senior leadership have brought new purpose to embedding a curriculum with the vision and community at its core. Care is taken to support and nurture pupils, ensuring they thrive and access learning. Staff tailor the curriculum to meet the learning requirements of pupils, including those with special educational needs and/ or disabilities. Inspirational texts are used to challenge perception and social injustice by exploring and reflecting on 'big questions' as they arise. Opportunities planned for spiritual development in the curriculum result in pupils being curious, caring, and respectful of God's world. However, the school's definition of spirituality, as 'self, others, beauty and beyond' is not fully embedded. This is restricting how pupils and staff identify spiritual experiences in the wider curriculum.

Collective worship is a valued part of the school day when the school community joins together. Worship is a welcoming, contemplative space to celebrate God's love. Its inclusive inspirational approach provides opportunities to pause, sing and question, which is enhancing personal growth. Values are explored and affirmed throughout the day in response to meaningful reflection. For example, considering how many people can be thanked in a day. This interactive approach enables pupils to express their views and consider how themes are personally meaningful. All recognise worship as times to reflect, question and to learn about themselves, others, and the world around them. Collective worship is clearly planned to offer a range of spiritual, moral and ethical questions, and make links between the messages and values of the Bible and their own lives. During celebration worship, achievements of the pupils and values that have been demonstrated are highlighted. Pupils and adults participate enthusiastically within a welcoming atmosphere. They speak of how it helps them to reflect on their understanding and think about God. Regular involvement from the local church supports and enhances the development of collective worship. The school community enjoy the sense of belonging and appreciate the opportunity to worship and visit the local church. Harvest, Christmas, Easter and other Christian festivals are explored in St Cyriac's Church. Opportunities for prayer are available throughout the school day and enhance spirituality. Pupils use the spiritual spot as a place to pray and see it as a time to reflect on how they live out the values.

Pupils and adults flourish at Lacock Church of England Primary School. The school's foundation reflects Jesus' command of love one another and underpins how pupils behave. Pupils are caring, respectful and proud of their school and community. They say it is 'a small school with a big heart.' Pupils are quick to see when their peers are struggling and immediately come to their aid. Leaders understand the context of their school and strive to provide opportunities for positive change. These include litter picking and supporting local food banks, bringing



positive change within the community. Parents and carers talk of the inclusive and supportive vision of the school where pupils are treated as individuals. Leaders are motivated by the vision's focus on doing everything in love. They prioritise wellbeing as they care for adults, pupils and their families. Strong links have been established with the community, the diocese and other agencies. These partnerships enable the school to live out its vision and develop learning experiences. Staff value how the vision knits the staff and community together. Leaders make sure that professional development and staff workload are reviewed regularly. This support and care enable adults' wellbeing to flourish.

Leaders understand the context of their school and strive to enable pupils to challenge for positive change. Examples are the eco club, litter picking, and writing letters of thanks. Pupils explore their responsibility towards others in their school community. They make a considerable contribution to their school and wider community through fundraising activities and links with the church. Leaders provide opportunities for pupils to make good choices for others. Through the school, eco, and worship leaders, pupils are developing a voice in how the school develops. For instance, donating to children's charities, toys to hospitals and raising money to ensure all can access school trips. However, opportunities for pupils to engage in issues of injustice and social change beyond their community, are limited.

Religious education (RE) reflects the school vision and is well-planned, sequenced, and led effectively. The RE curriculum is balanced between the study of Christianity, other world views and religions. Through monitoring leaders have refined and improved curriculum depth and provision to ensure greater understanding. Pupils enjoy RE, seeing it as important to learn about religious and non-religious traditions. They identify its relevance to their lives and can articulate key beliefs and practices across the religions studied. As a result, they develop an understanding and thoughtfulness for people from a range of world views and faiths. They understand Christianity is a global world faith and the importance of respecting other religious views. Links with the diocese ensure the RE lead accesses training, which is cascaded to other staff. The revised RE curriculum identifies creative and engaging experiences for pupils of world religions and cultures. However, opportunities to gain a greater understanding of diverse communities beyond the locality are not embedded.

Information

Address	High Street, Lacock, Wiltshire, SN15 2LQ		
Date	16 September 2024	URN	126333
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	65
Diocese	Bristol		
Headteacher	Aaron Laws		
Chair of Governors	Stella Sage		
Inspector	Rhian Cockwell		