

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Pucklechurch Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Castle Road, Pucklechurch, Bristol BS16 9RF

School vision

‘Aspire, Believe and Achieve’

At Pucklechurch Primary School, children, through their learning, are given the opportunity to appreciate God’s given gifts they and others have. This is done through our focus on Christian Values ‘Friendship, Courage, Respect, Generosity, Compassion and Forgiveness’ . These values are central to shaping children’s social and philosophical interactions. They are explicit in the daily vocabulary of adults and children, rewards and recognition for how we wish children to participate in school and the community, and through Collective Worship, they are directly aligned with the Values for Life.

‘Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.’
(Matthew 5: 16)

School strengths

- The vision is a strong, living reality within the school. Pucklechurch has consistent, established pastoral care which benefits both pupils and adults.
- Pupil leadership opportunities through the ‘Pucklechurch Crews’ are a strength. This allows pupil voice to be heard in shaping school life and enables their work as agents of change.
- Provision and care for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is strong. This impacts on the aspiration that all learners will achieve and flourish without barriers.
- Religious education (RE) at Key Stage 2 is a strength. Pupils engage with maturity in their reflections and understanding of religion and worldviews.

Areas for development

- Develop rich opportunities for spiritual growth across all curriculum subjects. This will enable understanding that spirituality pervades all areas of life.
- Enrich the purpose and provision of worship that moves beyond reflection. This will increasingly allow pupils and adults opportunity to thrive spiritually.
- Develop robust systems to monitor and evaluate the school’s work as a Church school. This is to direct and secure further strategic improvement.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision is a living reality at Pucklechurch. Leaders commit to making sure both adults and pupils live life together well, both now and for the future. The school family support and challenge each other to recognise the unique gifts they have been given by God to 'Aspire, Believe and Achieve'. The shared values of 'friendship, courage, respect, generosity, compassion and forgiveness' drive learning, behaviour and expectations. They frame their community identity and life together. Families are encouraged to share the values, extending the reach of the vision into their homes. Through sharing and developing their talents and skills, pupils are proudly determined to celebrate their uniqueness. Pupils help others to realise that dreams are possible if you work hard and stay true to your beliefs. They achieve their ambition of election to a 'Pucklechurch Crew' or already planning for their future employment. Achievements are highlighted, celebrated; the very heart of the school is based on reward, recognition and participation. Pupil leadership and voice opportunities afforded by the 'Pucklechurch Crews' further enhance and strengthen their intent. Pupils are confident and able to express themselves within this trusting, nurturing school family.

Underpinning the vision, the established school values drive and shape the curriculum. The 'golden threads' of Pucklechurch values are woven throughout, giving learning relevance. This is inclusive of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or those who are vulnerable. Careful decisions are made to enrich opportunity through literature when learning about representation, diversity and compassion. An enquiry design enables a questioning approach, where pupils can suggest and explore their own ideas or philosophies with increasing independence. Opportunities for debate help grow pupils' understanding of rights and responsibility. Spontaneous opportunities for spiritual development within parts of the curriculum demonstrates pupils are capable to develop their understanding further. Values-led lessons and discursive reflection are evidently promoting pupil voice. Learning is shaped for those needing adaption, where choice, physical environment and varied approaches to learning gift agency to individuals. The impact of this work is evident inclusion, deep compassion and acceptance of others and their needs. Building understanding of difference, this is preparing pupils well for their future place in society.

Daily collective worship provides experiences to reflect on the wider world. It presents space to form and investigate questions and observations proposed by pupils. This is developing pupils' ability to inform their decisions and judgements made of others, securing empathy. Global issues and worldwide religion are explored, which is helping pupils to make links and comparisons with their own lives. Each term is themed by a school value, where understanding is securely deepened through Bible stories. This shared teaching aligns with social expectations of the Pucklechurch community. Leaders set clear expectations in their messaging that helps pupils learn how to live well together, for example in the acceptance of all. Role models are celebrated and pupils communicate their understanding of what responsibilities are held by members of the school family. All are encouraged to 'let their light shine' (Matthew 5: 16) and pupils understand their responsibility to pay this forward to others. Additionally, invitational opportunities for prayer and personal reflection are engaged with readily. Their curiosity is tangible through their ideas and evaluation of worship.

Strong culture and ethos are led by the vision and values. Behaviour is excellent in learning and play, meaning all can be themselves without reservation and aligned with the vision. Good mental health is promoted through the use of 'reflection journals', where pupils record their personal thoughts safely. The timely use of this after lunch means all are ready to move on with their day in a positive way. Pupils value the outdoor learning environments and elements of curricular provision beyond the classroom that create balance. This offer is developing pupils holistically, through forging relationships and growing their resilience. The vision

supports leaders in making decisions, by flexing school provision or wrapping extra support around families. All groups are important and expected to succeed. Allocation of resources or teaching support enable this, and pupils are kept at the centre. Adults are encouraged to grow professionally and hold ambition, they value the time invested in them formally and informally by leaders. They feel well supported at times of difficulty, reporting that Pucklechurch ‘feels like a family – you never feel alone’. Pupils benefit from the timely use of pastoral conversations beyond the academic, support for those deemed vulnerable is ready to be actioned. Pastoral care is strong, it is a pillar in times of both celebration and challenge.

Pupils have developed a secure understanding of justice. This is achieved through curricular teaching and reflection discussions that contribute to their personal development. They are exposed to challenging content such as crime and responsibility, which is helping pupils appreciate that life experiences are different. They know when help is needed and are ready to act, through charitable effort or conservation. Pupils are keen to know how they can make a difference and readily offer empathy to others. They feel empowered by their acts of natural conservation projects and any fund-raising they undertake. These activities nurture their sense of responsibility and an appreciation that they can make a difference. They achieve this using their talents as the words of Matthew 5: 16 has taught them. Whilst wider social action is at an early stage of development, investment in and enthusiasm for initiatives is clear. Pucklechurch is ambitious to grow global impact projects to take and embed this understanding further. Partnerships between groups are valued and Pucklechurch benefits from shared working and professional advice provided by those who work closely with the school.

RE is valued and a high priority at Pucklechurch, both through the time given to the subject and in the well-planned content. Knowledge and vocabulary are progressive and challenging, evidenced in the planned curriculum. Enquiry topics balance theology, philosophy and learning about relationships. World religions are taught with accuracy. This combined means older pupils have great maturity and knowledge when discussing their learning. They are passionate and interested about the similarities and differences across world religion, beliefs and Christianity, having great respect for all. Consequently, Key Stage 2 pupils model deep understanding of practice and belief, both within and between different faiths. The enquiry approach sustains the safe place that questions can be posed and their own beliefs discussed. Pupils are beginning to apply their understanding in the development of the spiritual self, this work is in the early stage of development within the school.

The inspection findings indicate that Pucklechurch Church of England VC Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	29 February 2024	URN	109171
VA/VC/Academy	VC	Pupils on roll	186
Diocese	Diocese of Bristol		
Headteacher	Alexandra Capel		
Chair	Duncan Light		
Inspector	Faye Kitchen	No.	C.23/24