



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Sampson's Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Bath Road, Cricklade, Swindon, SN6 6AX

School vision

Lighting Up Life and Learning.
 'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' - Matthew 5: 16.

At St Sampson's we value all children as unique and made in the image of God. We recognise, celebrate and nurture their individual talents and skills to enable them to reach for excellence and aspire to their ambitions. We will instil a love of learning, a spirit of curiosity, a desire to be their best and become independent, well-rounded and respectful members of our society, who strive to make the world a brighter place.

School strengths

- The Christian vision is a lived reality, driving all that the school does, led and supported by a strong leadership team.
- The leadership team create a welcoming environment where all are valued and needs are met.
- Collective worship is at the heart of the school, offering experiences that enhance and enrich pupils' lives.
- The school culture is wholly inclusive, enabling all pupils and staff to live and work well together.
- The governors are active and work hard, adding noticeable and valuable support to the school community in many areas.

Areas for development

- Secure an agreed common language and shared understanding of spirituality for the whole school community.
- Develop the concept of worldviews with pupils, including non—religious and personal worldviews.
- Enable pupils to lead in areas of social action and establish them as independent agents for change.

Inspection findings

St Sampson's Primary School's Christian vision is fully embedded within all areas of school life. 'Lighting Up Life and Learning' is a focus and a reality for the pupils, supporting them when they struggle. Pupils apply to become 'leading lights' for different roles within the school. This provides opportunities, developing them as leaders and enabling them to flourish. The leadership promote a vision that applies to all, regardless of their background and faith, demonstrating an inclusive nature. Staff turnover is low, showing that adults in the school enjoy working here. The leadership

are approachable and training is offered to all teachers and assistants. Professional development is therefore fully supported. Staff work to their strengths, meaning that pupils get the best offer. Families from different communities have chosen to move their children to St Sampson's, demonstrating a deep level of trust in the school.

St Sampson's Christian vision gives focus and purpose to the curriculum, enabling every pupil to achieve and progress uniquely. 'Lighting Up Learning' guides the way staff and pupils relate to each other, further supporting their learning experiences. The school offers a range of extra-curricular activities, with staff choosing areas where they are particularly gifted. Special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and disadvantage needs are high. Even so, interventions are matched to each pupil's specific needs, enabling them to learn at their level. Pupils develop spiritually through the way the vision is applied to all curricular areas. Governors monitor the impact in each subject. The leadership maintain the need for holistic development and support pupils' awareness of joy, beauty, creativity and wonder. The absence of a shared understanding of appropriate vocabulary limits the development of spirituality.

Collective worship at St Sampson's is wholly inclusive and pupils talk about feeling part of the community. Worship is daily, raising the profile of shared spiritual opportunities. At the start of worship, a pupil from each class places a lighted candle on the worship table. This demonstrates an inclusive spiritual opportunity. Collective worship is monitored by governors, leadership and the pupil worship team. Reviewing and evaluating it regularly means that it informs future planning. The school's partnership with the 'Open The Book' team, further enhances worship while allowing pupils to appreciate diversity. Pupils and staff are invited to participate in many aspects of worship, including acting, singing, prayer and reflection, providing opportunities for spiritual development. Collective worship is shaped by the Christian vision and every week, pupils share examples where they are 'lighting up life and learning'. When on residential, Year 6 share collective worship with songs and prayers, helping to reassure pupils who were feeling anxious and providing them with a safe space ready for nighttime.

The school's Christian vision creates a wholly inclusive culture, where everyone is valued and appreciated. The pupils talk about everyone being treated the same so that it is fair. Families from the Traveller community have become integral within the school community, demonstrating a high level of trust and equity. Both Afghan and Syrian refugees have been welcomed to the school, showing how vulnerable and disadvantaged families are included. Effective and robust structures are in place to support individual pupils and adults during difficult times. Pupils refer to the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant's (ELSA) 'lunch bunch', where pupils can go at lunchtimes if they need some time out. Staff talk about how supportive the leadership are when they are going through difficult times. This shows how adults are valued and treated well. Pupils with high emotional and developmental needs flourish within the school, although the leadership are also aware when an individual would flourish further in a specialised setting. When necessary, they will challenge the local authority to provide spaces in SEND schools for specific pupils, further supporting their development. Parents share that any issues in school are responded to quickly, enhancing the wellbeing for all concerned.

Led by the school vision, pupils aim to treat everyone equally and take a stand against what is wrong. Pupils explain that this behaviour goes beyond school and that they take a stand against bullying in the local area. Families with disadvantaged pupils are designated a member of staff who acts as their 'advocate'. These advocates work with their family, to make sure they know what is happening in school. They also check if there is anything their child needs on specific days. The school considers the needs of the more vulnerable families and recognises their responsibility towards them. Picture News is used to help raise the pupils' awareness of what is going on in the world. The Community Leaders' Team, one of the school's leading lights groups, raises awareness of

issues locally. This has included litter picking in the park and raising money for Water Aid. They have also spoken to the local council about what else they could do. Some pupils are beginning to raise awareness about specific issues they want to change. However, pupils are not currently supported to lead on issues and become independent agents for change.

St Sampson's school provides religious education (RE) that is sequential, engaging and builds on pupils' prior learning. The long-term overview includes key knowledge, concepts and vocabulary which pupils build on each year. This gives them a core understanding of many of the world's major religions. Pupils talk about what people from different religions believe. They also recognise that religious stories and ideas make them reflect on their own lives and sense of meaning. RE has been linked with other learning within the school, including art and science, making RE relevant to pupils who favour other subjects. Teachers receive professional development from the Diocese.

Christianity is now better understood by staff, so teaching and learning is more effective. Pupils visit places of worship, including different churches within Cricklade and the Gurdwara in Swindon. This ensures the subject is relevant and diverse. With support from the foundation governors, the pupils have also researched Christianity in different countries. Pupils appreciate Christianity as a global, world faith. There is a limited understanding of worldviews, which includes pupils not being aware of personal and non-religious worldviews.

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

Information			
Inspection date	10 July 2024	URN	126317
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	284
Diocese	Bristol		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Jennifer Bayne		
Chair	Julian Thomas		
Inspector	Paul Marvin	No.	2314