

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Sparsholt Church of England Primary School	
Address	Woodman Lane, Sparsholt, SO21 2NR
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent

School's vision
As we dig deep and flourish in mind, body and spirit, our children have the confidence to be aspirational learners who are creative, courageous and compassionate in response to the needs of our community and of the world.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This school is a truly inspiring place to learn and to work. All members of the school community live out the Christian vision with authenticity and kindness. The vision is embedded and effective. • The theological underpinning of the vision is clearly articulated by leaders and evident in supporting documentation. Leaders are actively seeking to raise the profile of the biblical rootedness of the vision even further. • Inspirational collective worship is well planned and is deeply valued by the whole school community. Pupils confidently plan and lead collective worship on a weekly basis. This enables pupils to develop their leadership skills and their understanding of worship. • Opportunities for pupils to develop as independent agents of change are excellent. Pupils are given a wide range of leadership roles which enables them to flourish. • The Christian vision clearly impacts on the curriculum enabling all to learn and develop as well-rounded pupils. The exceptionally strong provision for religious education (RE) is at the heart of this.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the biblical authority of the vision, clearly articulated by leaders, is encountered and understood by all. This is to further illuminate how the vision drives this deeply Christian school enabling all to flourish. • In line with the pupil led culture of the school, enhance opportunities for pupils in the planning of spirituality within the curriculum. This will further develop and deepen their spiritual awareness within their learning.



Inspection findings

This excellent school lives out its Christian vision in a way which is both spontaneous and intentional. Pupils are inspired to be aspirational learners who are creative, courageous and compassionate. Governors monitor the impact of the vision and are actively involved in the life of the school. Leaders accurately explain the biblical underpinning of the vision and how it is a deeply Christian driven vision. The vision has embedded theology, exemplified by actions across the school. The headteacher and deputy provide strong Christian leadership supported by the governing body. As a result of how the vision is lived, pupils and adults flourish in mind, body and spirit. The school has a culture of aspiration and supportive relationships which engender inclusivity, dignity and respect for all.

In line with the vision, excellent opportunities exist for pupils to take on a wide variety of leadership roles. The pupil governors meet with the governing body and produce their own development plan. Governors take account of pupil ideas when writing the school development plan. The pupil worship team is proactive. They confidently plan and lead worship each week. Themes for collective worship are well planned, linking to the vision, Church year and world events. Music is an integral part of inspiring Christian worship and pupils engage with great enthusiasm. Music has an uplifting impact on how pupils and adults encounter a sense of awe and spirituality. Pupils are regularly inspired to share their worship from school at the local church during Sunday services. Pupil involvement in parish services is transformational for both pupils and the congregation. This brings an exceptional community wide benefit.

Further evidence of exemplary practice through community links is the termly newspaper called 'The Herald'. This innovative newsletter is written by pupils to keep the school and local community informed about Church school activities. This significantly raises the profile of the school as a thriving Church school with parents and the wider community. The school has a successful community partnership with Sparsholt College. Students from Sparsholt College on a horticultural course have worked with pupils to produce various school garden designs. These designs will revitalise an area into a sensory and wellbeing garden. These plans are now at the final stages and pupils recognise that this will provide a quiet area for spiritual reflection as well as a wildlife area. There is an enthusiastic eco warrior team who lead on projects such as 'waste free Wednesdays'. Pupils show great awareness of their responsibility to care for the environment. The school prayer, written by pupils with the vicar, reflects pupils' social, moral and spiritual commitment towards the environment.

Empowered by the school's Christian vision to challenge injustice, pupils at the school are true agents for change. They are passionate about local and global issues. Pupils' compassion is shown in how they led a fund-raising effort in response to the war in Ukraine. The members of the worship committee speak with conviction of how they galvanise and organise support for a locally based, global charity, Karis Kids. Pupils understand the transformational impact of their support for this charity on the education of orphaned children in Uganda. They also engage with a local charity to raise money for the Winchester night shelter and the basics bank. The school excels in providing opportunities for pupils to become independent agents of change. The wide range of leadership roles available to pupils enables them to explore their passions and interests. Driven by the vision, pupils develop the skills and qualities needed to make a positive impact in the world. The school values and trusts its pupils, and is committed to helping them develop into thoughtful, responsible, and compassionate leaders. This focus on pupil leadership benefits the school community and prepares pupils for future success.

The school's innovative curriculum and wide range of extra-curricular provision deeply enrich



the academic and wider development of all learners. A rich variety of visits and visitors teach pupils about world faiths through first hand experiences. This is evidenced by a visit to St Stephen's Church in Sparsholt, the Masjid Abu Mosque in Southampton and the Chithurst Buddhist Monastery. Visitors are welcomed into school to talk about their lives and recently included a Muslim parent to enrich learning about Islam. A school photographic display celebrates inclusion through the family connections and heritage of pupils from all over the world. A parent commented that pupils have a very good sense of the connectedness of themselves to the world around them. Foundation governors robustly monitor the impact of RE through school visits, listening to pupils and reviewing work in books. This ensures they have a comprehensive overview of the school's effectiveness as a Church school. The strong leadership ensures that all teachers who teach RE have the confidence and skills to do so. Teachers facilitate meaningful and engaging debate and discussion in RE. The school uses the locally agreed syllabus adding innovative and engaging material to reflect the school's vision.

There are many opportunities to experience spirituality across the curriculum, both planned and spontaneous. There is a rich culture of deep reflection. For example, pupils talk about finding 'inner peace'. In lessons pupils demonstrate that they can express themselves spiritually with confidence. Pupils' high levels of religious literacy enable them to explore the meaning of devotion both in their own lives and in different religions. They are able to critically discuss religious and philosophical quotes about peace. As RE is a safe space for personal reflection, they can express what peace means to them personally. This demonstrates a challenging and searching consideration of wisdom. Older pupils demonstrate a breadth of understanding of world faiths. Inspired by their study of Buddhist prayer flags, messages pupils wrote were both motivational and empowering.

The school follows a comprehensive scheme for personal, social and health education (PSHE). In addition to this, the school has developed a 'weekly wheel of wellbeing' to truly embed good mental health practices. Relationships education supports the flourishing of all pupils and ensures that all live harmoniously and respectfully as a community. Parents are very enthusiastic about the school and speak highly of the positive impact on their children. One parent said that 'children grow into ethical human beings with the confidence to express their opinions'. Parents speak of how the school values of courage, creativity and compassion, embedded within the vision, are transformational. For example, consistent use of the values enabled a child to overcome anxiety which transformed their school attendance. Pupils are taught to be resilient, using the values embedded within the vision to help them overcome challenges. This is described as having the courage to overcome their 'Goliath'.

The governing body demonstrates its ambition for all pupils and especially for those who are disadvantaged or with additional needs. School leaders have repurposed a music room to become a therapeutic space that serves as a calm sanctuary for nurture and self-regulation. This exemplifies how the vision is used to support vulnerable pupils with additional needs in order that they can thrive. Leaders have taken the decision to fully fund pupils identified as disadvantaged to attend all educational visits. All pupils have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, enhancing opportunities for their creative flourishing. Inspired by the aspirational vision, leaders ensure pupils identified as disadvantaged are prioritised for after school club provision. Leaders boldly put equity above absolute equality.

The Christian vision is truly engrained. Pupils recognise their responsibility to help others in response to the needs of the community and the world. As a parent commented, the school empowers their children to play their part in the outside world. Parents also attribute good behaviour to the impact of school's vision. One Bible quote which the school uses to inspire



pupils is to 'shine like stars in the universe'. The pupils at Sparsholt really do shine and the Christian vision is deeply effective in enabling them to flourish.

Information			
School	Sparsholt Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	28 April 2023
URN	116317	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Portsmouth; Winchester	Pupils on roll	126
Headteacher	Elizabeth Hanratty		
Chair of Governors	Caroline Horrill		
Inspector	Amanda Brockway	No.	2214