

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

West Pennard Church of England Primary School

Address	Church Lane, West Pennard, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8NT		
Date of inspection	12 June 2019	Status of school	Voluntary Controlled primary
Diocese	Bath and Wells	URN	123780

Overall Judgement	How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	Grade	Excellent
Additional Judgements	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent

School context

West Pennard Church of England Primary School has 200 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils considered to be disadvantaged is below the national average. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below the national average. Since the last inspection both a new headteacher and a new deputy headteacher have been appointed.

The school's Christian vision

'Since God so loved us, so we must love one another' | John 4 v11

Valuing our Christian foundation, we care for each other and our world. We develop resilience, confidence and independence through our innovative and diverse curriculum; inspiring and motivating everyone to thrive.

Key findings

- The Christian vision of the school is its life-blood and is transforming the lives of members of the school community.
- Courageous advocacy is a strength of the school with pupils determined to make a difference to the lives of people in the world.
- Invitational collective worship is the heartbeat of the school and delivers the school's Christian vision.
- Religious education (RE) is inspirational, challenging and enjoyed.
- Although the school has an innovative curriculum, its global links are less well developed.

Areas for development

- Ensure that global links are developed further so that pupils develop a deeper understanding of the needs of others.
- Further develop the school's partnerships, including working with the diocese to support innovation in schools locally, so that there are reciprocal benefits for this school.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Leaders have developed an inclusive and distinctive Christian vision underpinned by the biblical text 'Since God so loved us, so we must love one another' (John 4v11). It is shared by the whole community and lived out daily, modelled by the quiet determination of the headteacher. Adults and pupils say that living this vision is changing their lives. A pupil said, "I am proud to help." This school is a family where pupils and staff work together caring about each other's wellbeing and enabling all to flourish. Everyone feels cared for. Governors rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of the school as a Church school and use this to inform school improvement and investment. All policies and leadership decisions reflect the Christian vision.

Recognising that all children are created in the image of God, the school has developed an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum in line with its Christian vision which strongly supports the holistic development of all pupils. Data shows that progress and attainment are good across the school. Innovative enrichment days with alternative timetables including Forest School and learning Mandarin, ensures personal growth in resilience, confidence and independence, and 'value days' are times set aside to focus on the school's Christian values in an atmosphere of togetherness and time for reflection. Pupils gain hugely from these days and they contribute well to developing their sense of spirituality. Pupils are keen to discuss their learning, and effort and success is celebrated. This is a highly hospitable community where diversity is embraced. The SEND co-ordinator ensures that all pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities receive personalised education programmes. SEN pupils have learning passports and receive interventions tailored to their needs to ensure maximum achievement. The SENCO has introduced a flexible range of programmes to support vulnerable groups and progress is monitored. Behaviour is good and there is a school Pets As Therapy (PAT) dog who supports good mental health for pupils and adults. The school's Christian ethos underpins behaviour management through the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation.

In line with its Christian vision, the school is highly involved in its community. It enjoys a strong and mutually beneficial partnership with the parish church. The vicar and Open the Book team lead worship in the school and church and the school celebrates major festivals with services in church. These are well attended by families. The school is included in village projects and has a noticeboard for school news, in the church entrance. Caring for elderly neighbours, pupils visit their local Residential Home to play games or read with them which demonstrates their sense of social responsibility. To support Christian relationships between school and neighbours, pupils made season-appropriate gifts at Christmas and Easter and delivered them to every household in the village. The school benefits from good links with the local authority and diocese for support and specialist training. The governing body knows the school well and members are very involved. They offer challenge and support and have a thorough monitoring system informed by governor links with curriculum areas. All governors and staff receive appropriate and regular continuous professional development appropriate to their roles.

Daily collective worship is at the heart of the school. It is extremely well led and planned by staff and pupils. Monitoring and feedback show its importance to all members of the school community. A year 2 pupil said that it makes them feel loved because, "we talk about God." A year 3 said that, "It makes me feel happy and gets me ready for the day." Staff echoed this feeling. Pupils say that it is important to praise God together. Collective worship themes are based on the school's core values and pupils are given 'value reminders' such as a compassion ribbon, to wear or hold. Worship includes Anglican liturgy and traditions with a pupil lighting the candle from the year 6 pilgrim day at Wells Cathedral and reminding everyone that, "God is with us; Father, Son and Holy Spirit." Worship is invitational and varied, including dance and drama. As part of the Easter story, pupils learned about the importance of the Eucharist and re-enacted the last supper and Palm Sunday story. Pupils are familiar with Jesus' teachings and refer to parables affecting their daily behaviour. A year 6 pupil said that the parable of the rich fool reminds her to always be kind when she has the chance. After hearing the parable of the lost sheep, a pupil wrote that, "God loves me just as I am. He looks after me." Pupils value prayer and reflection. It is important to them and there are many opportunities offered collectively and privately. Alongside formal worship, these include writing prayers for a prayer wall, prayer boxes, reflection areas in classrooms, and special prayer spaces with guided prayer activities for special events. All are well-used by adults and children. Whilst pupils know the Lord's Prayer, they are able to use extempore prayer and several children said that they now

talk to God at home. Pupils say the grace together with their eyes open so that they can bless each other.

Leaders provide quality opportunities for pupils to question injustice and inequality and the Christian vision of the school is lived out in the passion with which pupils care about God's world and people. Pupils have become highly confident advocates of change. Whilst supporting a range of charities, pupils organise fund raising to educate a child in the Philippines, whom they view as a member of their school, and to support a sick child in this country.

RE is highly effective and inspirational. Pupils learn about Christianity as a living faith and about other world religions, acknowledging that they should respect the opinions of others. Classrooms are safe places enabling pupils to explore personal religious, spiritual and philosophical convictions. They discuss a range of issues with inspirational visitors including the vicar's classroom debate sessions which are based on the school's core Christian values of truthfulness, thankfulness, friendship, compassion and respect. Families who are not practising Christians said that their children are learning about living well, understanding that they have a spiritual dimension and that this is achieved by the school being kind, loving and supportive. The RE co-ordinator effectively supports non-specialist teachers in the delivery and assessment of RE. She is also a member of Somerset Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), leading innovation in the revised curriculum and spreading this to other schools.

Headteacher	Jo Hale
Inspector's name and number	Alison Appleyard 877