

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Woodley Church of England Primary School	
Address	Hurricane Way, Woodley, RG5 4UX

School vision

At Woodley Church of England Primary School each person is unique and accepted as a child of God. Through strong Christian values, and our BRIGHT attitudes to learning, we inspire hearts and minds to create life-long learners, who have the skills, knowledge and understanding to shine brightly in the world.

“Let your light shine before others.” Matthew 5:16

School strengths

- The Christian vision is clearly lived within the school. Pupils and adults are valued for their unique gifts and nurtured to shine.
- The vision is woven through a varied curriculum. Pupils are provided with rich opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills. Vulnerable pupils have access to high quality pastoral support.
- Pupils and adults flourish spiritually because they are provided with creative ways to think and respond. Leaders celebrate the vision and values through inspirational and inclusive worship.
- Pupils and adults serve one another with love. Adults foster pupils' understanding of justice. They nurture pupils to consider how they can make a stand against injustice and make ethical choices.
- Teachers are supported well to develop pupils' understanding of Christianity and religious worldviews.

Areas for development

- Deepen pupils' ability to be more aware of injustice in the world. This is so that they understand that they can make a positive difference by acting as agents of change.
- Further enrich religious education (RE) with opportunities to learn about non-religious worldviews. This is so that pupils deepen their understanding of the world.

Inspection findings

Leaders promote the embedded Christian vision so that it 'shines out' across the school. Pupils and adults are inspired to be the best they can be. They live out the vision, describing the positive effect that it has on them personally. All are strongly encouraged to be aspirational while supporting others to 'shine brightly.' Everyone is committed to serving each other with love and forgiveness. Leaders recognise that the vision is enriched by the changing diversity within the local area. All are valued as God's children because of their unique talents.

Pupils thrive within a culture that develops their skills and knowledge. The Christian vision is expertly woven through an ambitious curriculum. Pupils are inspired by key learning attitudes, referred to as 'bright learning.' These are an expression of the vision and underpin the drive for learners to achieve their best. Dedicated leaders form strategic decisions that enrich the curriculum, allowing pupils to grow and live well together.. The school offers a safe place for all to develop as unique individuals and to express themselves freely. Vulnerable pupils, or those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are cared for by a skilled pastoral team. Leaders ensure that specialist agencies are utilised to support families where required. The vision inspires an active curriculum deliberately designed to support those with SEND. Adults guide vulnerable pupils to achieve as a result of targeted training. Governors effectively monitor the curriculum, which provides leaders with evaluative feedback. Strong partnerships enhance the vision of the school. Effective links with local churches support collective worship and RE. Pupils benefit because leaders are committed to fostering links within the wider community. Teachers have useful opportunities to work alongside partners in the 'Schools Learning Alliance.' Adults are strongly encouraged to enrich learning activities. As a result, pupils deepen their knowledge of environmental issues after a visitor with electric vehicles.

Adults plan creative opportunities for enriching spiritual growth. This is a strength of the school and an excellent expression of the Christian vision. Pupils and adults experience inclusive, daily reflective activities based on a diocesan contemplative resource. These calming sessions provide vital moments of stillness and are clearly valued. They allow those who find whole-school worship challenging to have calmer moments to experience contemplation. Thoughtfully compiled books gather pupil responses. These provide useful confirmation that planned spirituality within the wider curriculum is beneficial for pupils. Leaders engage well with diocesan training. In turn, they ensure all teachers are confident when guiding the spiritual development of others. As a result, pupils can explore deep responses to questions within themselves or with God.

Collective worship is engaging and an expression of the Christian vision. Worship is clearly valued as an opportunity for spiritual reflection and prayer. Adults deliberately use inclusive language, enabling all present to respond. Pupils behave with focus yet participate enthusiastically with songs and active paired discussion. Worship is a celebration and a valued gathering of the community. Pupils are sensitively invited to think about the value of the term, for example, truth. They confidently offer responses and can make connections with the teachings of Jesus. Leaders demonstrate a deep commitment to pupils leading their peers. Worship leaders confidently guide others in prayer. In turn, other pupils are inspired to offer spontaneous prayers to share with those present. Collective worship creates valuable opportunities for spiritual flourishing because it is planned and led well.

Leaders are dedicated to ensuring the wellbeing of all in their care. Resources are used effectively to provide learning or emotional support for those who are vulnerable. The skilled pastoral team effectively addresses attendance or specific challenges facing families. They act with dignity and sensitivity to foster trust. The local clergy and laity team provide highly effective nurture sessions. These provide pupils with beneficial access to outdoor activities or counselling conversations. Leaders boldly champion families to secure external support. Consequently, pupils are supplied with tailored care, which helps their lights shine as unique individuals. The staff team sustains each other with mutual support and knows that governors are committed to their wellbeing. This enables all to flourish professionally while feeling loved.

Adults regularly inspire pupils to consider how they can live the vision. Pupils are encouraged to promote the gifts of others. This fosters excellent relationships throughout the school. Leaders nurture service through pupil leadership groups. The eco council earnestly takes responsibility for monitoring energy use while educating their peers about the environment. More widely, pupils are

encouraged to make a difference by sponsoring a child in Africa. This connection is mutually beneficial for pupils because they share their experiences while learning about others. Despite this, pupils' deeper understanding of injustice globally is limited.

Leaders are dedicated to the provision of high quality RE. As a result, they make good use of diocesan training to craft a curriculum which increases knowledge and skills. Leaders expertly identify core learning enabling pupils to form views and make connections. Teachers effectively plan learning activities to deepen pupils' understanding of Christianity and religious worldviews. However, the planning for non-religious worldviews is not fully embedded. Pupils share their enjoyment of RE because they are encouraged to think and make connections with their own beliefs. They are strongly encouraged to recognise the similarities and differences when studying religious worldviews. Leaders equip teachers with high quality resources and work with governors to monitor the effectiveness of the RE curriculum.

Through its Christian vision, the school nurtures a love of learning and respect for others. Pupils and adults shine in this inclusive culture because they are valued as children of God. Difference is celebrated and woven through an inspiring, spiritual curriculum.

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

Information			
Inspection date	17 January 2024	URN	109988
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	306
Diocese	Oxford		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Louisa Gurney		
Chair	Gemma Plowright		
Inspector	Helen Crolla	No.	918