

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Radstock	
Address	Old Road, Writhlington, Radstock, BA3 3NG
School vision	
<p>Be the Best You Can Be 'Whatever you do, do it with all your heart.' Colossians 3:23</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspirational leadership of the Christian vision has a powerful impact on the whole school community. This strongly affects pupils' learning, behaviour and wellbeing. • The school's curriculum enables the vision to be lived out through the community's enjoyment of learning. This empowers them to 'be the best they can be.' • Worship is central to daily life at St Mary's because it provides meaningful moments in which all can flourish spiritually. This is due to the powerful impact of the vision. • A deeply supportive, caring culture is inspired by the school's vision. This enables pupils and adults to be treated well and flourish. • Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established an engaging and relevant curriculum which enhances pupils' learning. Consequently, this has a positive impact on their understanding of a range of faiths including Christianity and worldviews. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the school's shared understanding of spiritual development across the curriculum. This is to promote opportunities that can have a positive impact on pupils' learning and spiritual flourishing. • Provide further opportunities for pupils to explore issues of injustice and inequality in the curriculum. This is to equip them to be agents of change. • Ensure the new scheme of work in RE is fully embedded. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Transformational leadership has ensured that a deeply Christian vision is embedded at St Mary's. The words of St Paul unite the whole school community with a strong sense of meaning and purpose. This is a community where all do whatever they can for themselves and for others 'with all their hearts'. Pupils understand that school is a place full of opportunities in which they can enjoy their learning and flourish. Consequently, the vision promotes aspiration and enthusiasm and has a significant impact on pupils' learning and behaviour. Parents feel welcomed and fully included. They highly value the way staff understand, nurture and care for their children. The multi-academy trust (MAT) promotes very beneficial relationships between its Church schools. This enables effective practice to be shared. Trust leaders provide relevant reviews and support such as recently for the RE curriculum. The school's partnership with the diocese is strong and has a powerful effect. School leaders effectively monitor the impact of the vision in a variety of ways. This process accurately</p>	



identifies areas for development.

The school's curriculum is shaped by its Christian vision. It provides rich experiences encouraging all to 'be the best they can be'. It is fully focussed on developing pupils' interests and talents. The curriculum is exciting and engaging, motivating pupils to aspire to fulfil their dreams. Pupils try their hardest, understanding that learning might not always be easy. Nevertheless, they enthuse about their time in school and express their thankfulness for all the opportunities provided by their teachers. As a result, pupils talk with animation about their favourite activities, including sports, forest school and lunchtime yoga club. Experiences are maximised that develop pupils' creativity and curiosity. Bold decisions are made with the curriculum to help ensure that barriers can be overcome. As a result of staff's actions, the potential of pupils identified as disadvantaged is being transformed. Staff have a developing shared understanding of the meaning of spiritual development. This now has greater impact in planning across the curriculum and is identified as an area for further development.

Collective worship embeds St Mary's vision in its biblical roots. This ensures that it is central to the school day. For example, the story of Jesus calling Matthew the tax collector is linked to the vision of being the best he could be. Older pupils say they particularly value the opportunity to hold worship in their classrooms. This is because they recognise it provides opportunities for them to express their thoughts in greater depth. Pupils known as worship warriors have a prominent role in the leadership of worship. They thoughtfully plan and lead worship in ways that recognise how best to meet the needs of other pupils. This is an example of the way worship enables spiritual flourishing. The clergy regularly lead worship fostering beneficial links with the church. Collective worship provides a vibrant yet peaceful and calm space in the busy school day. Times of quiet reflection, prayer and joyous interactive singing promote a deep sense of spiritual flourishing. This sustains and inspires daily school life. Worship times as well as themes are carefully planned for maximum impact in encouraging all to flourish spiritually. Staff who lead worship benefit from training and support and this has a positive effect. The school council regularly seeks the views of pupils about worship thereby, raising its impact at a personal level.

St Mary's is a warm and caring community where all are treated well. Christian values such as compassion and friendship promote and support all to live well together. This is because the vision and values encourage all to 'be the best they can be'. Pupils feel they can 'help others achieve their goals'. This is evident at lunchtimes when older pupils take turns to help others within the school community. The vision empowers pupils to be confident and articulate. Effective strategies are in place to support pupils' wellbeing. These include opportunities for a wide range of exciting visits and visitors. Close partnerships between staff and parents enable pupils to flourish. Staff greatly value the support provided by the MAT, both at a professional and personal level. They form a warm and cohesive team, encouraged and supported by one another and by leaders who prioritise their wellbeing. They work with all their hearts, being the best version of themselves for others in the community. As a result, staff morale is high.

A calm and respectful atmosphere permeates life and is evident throughout the school. Pupils enjoy participating with a wide range of diverse schools in events such as 'Young Voices' in Birmingham. These opportunities enhance their understanding and experience of inclusion as well as diversity. Older pupils enjoy a large number of leadership roles. Examples of such responsibilities include being librarians, buddies, house captains and 'techies'. Pupils also learn how to effectively contribute to and support one another's wellbeing. They talk about the need to see something from the perspective of others. They think deeply using 'all their hearts' to develop relationships with their peers. Consequently, the vision strongly enhances relationships. The curriculum introduces pupils to inspirational role models who sought justice and equality and this has a positive effect. However, the school's curriculum does not explicitly encourage pupils to seek justice. Consequently,

they lack opportunities to engage in social action projects.

RE is an enjoyable and inspiring subject at the heart of this Church school curriculum. It reflects the school's Christian vision by encouraging all to 'be the best they can be'. The subject leader ensures that the RE curriculum is well planned and effectively balanced. It is fully focused on meeting the needs of all pupils as they progress through the school. Relevant training has a positive impact on the subject leader. However, as the curriculum is new, it is in its early stages of implementation. Nevertheless, staff are well supported by the subject leader. The curriculum inspires learning that is challenging and motivating and relevant to the lives of pupils. They are encouraged to reflect and think deeply about their own beliefs and those of others. Beneficial visits from local clergy increase pupils' understanding of Christianity as a living faith. These experiences stimulate discussions such as 'Was Jesus a Christian?' They provoke insightful responses from pupils and so make a substantial contribution to spiritual development in RE.

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

Information			
Inspection date	27 February 2024	URN	147993
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	155
Diocese	Bath & Wells		
MAT/Federation	The Partnership Trust		
headteacher	Cathie Lampert		
Chair	Sarah Gilliam		
Inspector	Daphne Spitzer	No.	37