

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School, Crewkerne	
Address	Kit Hill, Crewkerne, TA18 8AS
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
Our vision is 'Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly'. Rooted in love, we aspire to help our children flourish as respectful, compassionate citizens who positively contribute to our world. From small beginnings, we seek to give children strong roots that allow them to thrive, giving them the wings to fly.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school community has a distinctive Christian vision, with clear biblical underpinning, which is widely understood. Leadership is enthusiastic and committed to ensuring the positive impact of the vision on the flourishing of pupils and adults. • Collective worship is well-planned and organised. It expresses the vision and has a clear impact on pupils and adults. Pupils are keen to plan and lead more regularly. • There are many opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills. The vision motivates pupils to be caring advocates for change. • The vision drives a clear whole school definition of spirituality. This is evident in pupils' understanding and ability to express themselves spiritually. However, the way opportunities for spiritual development are identified throughout the curriculum is less developed. • Religious education (RE) has strong leadership and a positive impact on delivering the vision to pupils. The school recognises the need to build in more visits and visitors as part of the developing RE curriculum.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop greater pupil involvement in planning and leading collective worship to further strengthen engagement and enhance impact. • Enhance the existing rich opportunities for promoting and expressing spirituality across the curriculum. This is to enable pupils to have opportunities to see how spirituality can pervade all areas of life. • Broaden pupils' first-hand knowledge of RE through engagement with people of differing worldviews and world faiths. This is to further extend pupils' understanding and knowledge of a range of beliefs and views.



Inspection findings

St Bartholomew's is a good school with many strengths. A highly committed leadership team promotes a well-established Christian vision rooted in biblical teaching. This leads to strong, supportive relationships. As a result of this, the pastoral care of staff and pupils is particularly good. This inspires pupils to show care for others in the wider community. Leaders are passionate about retaining their Christian vision as they transition from a first to a primary school and consult to join a multi-academy trust. 'Roots to grow and wings to fly' is understood by the whole school community. Leaders articulate how the vision relates to the biblical teaching in the parable of the mustard seed. Pupils express it as learning to be the best version of themselves and make the link to the Bible. The vision contributes towards the resilience and confidence of staff and pupils to pursue their ambitions.

The Christian vision has a positive impact on relationships, which are a key feature of the school. Significant effort is made to treat everyone with dignity and respect so that they flourish. The culture of the school is to watch over one another with love in a way which is spontaneous and intentional. The creative initiative 'Professors of Play' provides valued after school activities for pupils and their families. This has a positive impact on physical and mental wellbeing. Leadership opportunities for pupils exist in their role as 'Champions of Change' where they support other pupils' play at breaktimes. These innovative initiatives bring peace and resilience in line with the vision. The impact of strong relationships is seen in supportive partnerships between the school, parents, the town, and the local church. Challenges are seen as opportunities to make a real difference to peoples' lives.

Governors enhance pupil understanding of the school's Christian values through presenting trophies to pupils who have lived out these values. Pupils articulate how living out the values relates to the vision. Classrooms and communal areas have displays promoting the vision and values so that pupils relate this to their behaviour and relationships daily. Pupils speak with confidence about the vision and values. They express their positive impact on how to live well individually and as a community. The governors monitor and evaluate the impact of the school vision effectively. Visit reports on this are considered at meetings driving future improvement. The school has a close relationship with the diocese who provide much appreciated support and training, enabling leadership to thrive.

Collective worship is invitational and inclusive, and pupils respond well to moments of reflection. Participation is enthusiastic with joyful singing and parents readily support special services in church. Staff and pupils articulate they are inspired by collective worship, particularly when pupils take the lead or are given roles to play. The vicar is actively involved in the school, and pupils and staff are encouraged by his support. Visits to church take place on the special occasions of the year. This ensures pupils understand the significance of Christian festivals. The vision is strongly linked and features in acts of collective worship as does the lighting of three candles to represent the Trinity. 'Worship assistants' help with many of the practical arrangements. This enhances their sense of responsibility for worship. Groups of pupils occasionally lead worship. They show enthusiasm for greater involvement in the planning and delivery of collective worship on a more regular basis.

RE is very well-planned and delivered using various resources including the 'Understanding Christianity' programme. A broad and enriching curriculum, including 'Godly Play' engages younger pupils. To strengthen the effective tracking of individuals, the school is appropriately working on further developing assessment procedures. Involvement in diocesan training and RE teacher groups supports good practice. Good teaching enables pupils to flourish in the subject in line with the vision. Older pupils in particular have a thoughtful understanding of Christianity as a living faith. They speak confidently about their learning. Pupils show



knowledge of world religions but opportunities to have meaningful engagement with followers from a variety of faiths are limited.

A broad curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually. Reflection areas are available and used around the school. There is a termly schedule linked to the current value and 'big question'. Worship planning linked to school values and 'big questions' provides valued moments for pupils to ask questions and consider responses. Pupils express themselves spiritually through prayer, artwork and poetry. They appreciate the importance of prayer and regularly write prayers which are then shared in the school newsletter. Pupils develop outdoor reflection areas and can explain how time to reflect enables them to flourish.

This is a very inclusive school. The vision is lived through comprehensive care in supporting all pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Parents and pupils of different religious denominations feel that considerate provision is made for them. Parents appreciate communications from the school and the approachability of staff. Pupils from military families are offered the opportunity to meet as 'Little Troopers' to receive additional pastoral support. Pastoral care is a strong feature leading to a sense that everybody is deeply valued. The vision ensures that the mental health and wellbeing of the whole school community is prioritised. As a result, adults and pupils feel that every reasonable effort is made to meet their individual needs. All pupils have the opportunity to visit Ark at Egwood, for personal and team development. This also helps those who need weekly targeted support in an outdoor environment.

A strong feature of the school is the opportunity for pupils to engage in social action. Stemming from the vision, they see themselves as agents of change through various action groups. Pupils understand that like the parable of the mustard seed, a small beginning can lead to a large impact. For example, the school council, who are also online safety champions, produce a guide to online bullying. Sharing this with the local community and parents enhances pupils' engagement in social action beyond the school. The school is working towards the 'Bronze Global Neighbour Award' through Christian Aid. Meaningful links between 'The Reporters Club' and a school in Zambia have been formed as part of this application. Pupils understand from this the positive contribution they can make to the world. The decision by the pupil eco council to create a bee garden, complete with Christian values, increases opportunities for reflection. Opportunities for social action are enhanced through the 'Forget me Not' group's work in school and the local care home. This enhances pupils' understanding about dementia and how their actions can benefit lives in their community. In recognition of the impact of their work, they won a Royal British Legion Centenary Award. Pupils of all ages talk with passion about sponsoring a child in the Philippines. This enables pupils to look beyond the needs of their local community and develop compassion. Rooted in love, the dedicated staff work hard to broaden pupils' horizons and strive to do their best. All are enabled to grow and flourish in line with the strong Christian vision of this very caring school.



Information			
School	St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School, Crewkerne	Inspection date	5 May 2023
URN	123750	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Bath & Wells	Pupils on roll	183
Headteacher	Gemma Coward		
Chair of Governors	Cheryl Govier		
Inspector	Amanda Brockway	No.	2214