



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Chiddingfold	
Address	Petworth Road, Chiddingfold, Godalming, GU8 4UF

School vision
<p>Reflecting the virtues of Jesus' Mother, Mary, our vision is for every member of our school community to be inspired to blossom and grow in order to fulfil their potential in all aspects of life. By exploring the Christian values of wisdom, hope, respect and community, our pupils understand how to live out this vision and become kind, respectful and resilient social advocates, ready to play their part in building a better world.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is clearly articulated and lived by leaders and staff. This is the heartbeat of the school. The vision motivates strategic planning and is enhanced by the Good Shepherd Trust. (MAT) • Learning experiences are shaped by the Christian vision. All pupils are supported well, enabling them to 'blossom' and achieve their full potential. • Partnerships within the local area and beyond are exceptionally strong. As a result, pupils' learning opportunities are rich and varied. • Collective worship engages all and is a meaningful spiritual expression of the vision. Those gathered have valuable opportunities to sing and pray together. • Through the vision, all adults create a kind and respectful community. Pupils behave well within the harmonious culture. Compassion is shown to those facing challenging circumstances which supports wellbeing.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend monitoring systems for religious education (RE). This is so that all leaders can evaluate the impact of the new syllabus on pupils' knowledge and understanding. • Embed the language of spirituality within planning. This is so that pupils can articulate their understanding and share how these shape their lives.
Inspection findings
<p>The Christian vision threads through the life of the school. Pupils and adults are nurtured within a culture influenced by the virtues of Jesus' mother, Mary. The values of wisdom, hope, respect, and community underpin expectations and loving relationships. The enriching environment recognises pupils and adults for their unique gifts. This enables them to grow. Leaders are inspired by the vision when making strategic decisions. They are supported well by the Good Shepherd Trust (GST), whose vision enhances that of the school's. The close relationship with the Church of St Mary's reinforces the school's vision within the community .</p> <p>Learning activities are creatively planned to provide enriching experiences for pupils. A heritage</p>



week enables pupils to explore local historic buildings and includes valuable interactions with members of the community. These increase pupils' confidence. Carefully planned provision for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) ensures all are included. A sensory room provides much-needed space for those who require moments of calm. Visits to the horse sanctuary nurture those who require emotional support. The pastoral team responds sensitively when linking families with specialist agencies. The local committee ensures that resources are fairly distributed so that the most vulnerable are sensitively supported. This creates a loving and inclusive environment. Achieving the 'Inclusion Quality Mark's Inclusive School Award' recognises the school's deep commitment to supporting all. Adults skilfully encourage pupils to appreciate the rich diversity within families. As a result, the value of respect is noticeable when pupils speak about others. Staff are inspired by the vision to shape their own teaching. Opportunities for spiritual development are woven through learning activities. Teachers make good use of the arts to explore God's creation. They are committed to providing inspiring activities for all ages, for example, attending the singing event 'Young Voices.'

Leaders form strong, beneficial partnerships. These underpin the life of the school, enhancing experiences for pupils and adults. Local clergy facilitate pupils' appreciation of a richly historic and thriving worshipping community. Teachers also engage well with diocesan training which develops their professional skills. This partnership enriches activities such as 'pause days.' Pupils and adults are provided with spiritual enrichment through visits to the 'Wintershall Education Estate.' A recent inset day at the estate fortified adults and enhanced the vision of the school. The relationships within the GST provide teachers with opportunities to live St Mary's vision, inspiring other colleagues.

Engaging collective worship contributes to the spiritual flourishing of both pupils and adults. The local 'Open the Book' team lead exciting presentations of Bible stories. As a result, pupils enthusiastically recall favourites such as Joseph. The 'collective worship team' proudly promotes the vision during worship. Their certificates celebrate others who demonstrate the school's values. The worship team also maintain inviting reflection corners within classrooms. These provide pupils with valuable opportunities for spontaneous prayer. Pupils draw comfort from leaving their worries in a jar. Teachers regularly use spiritual diaries to capture pupils' responses to big questions or biblical stories. However, these do not show how the creative opportunities are impacting pupils' spiritual development. The language of worship is generally inclusive, so pupils and adults are free to express their beliefs. Those gathered readily join in with the school prayer. Singing is a valued part of worship. Favourite songs are sung with enthusiasm and are promoted in the parish church. This deepens the bond between church and school because families recognise songs when they attend.

Due to the inclusive nature of the school's vision, all treat each other with respect. Adults have high expectations for behaviour, so pupils feel safe in a calm environment. The vision inspires restorative practice, which encourages kindness and forgiveness. Well-being is a priority for all leaders. This is lived out through the values of respect and community. All are recognised as God's children, which enables them to flourish as individuals. Members of staff are appreciated and nurtured as individuals. The local committee acts responsibly, ensuring that the wellbeing of staff is maintained. The appointed 'Wellbeing Officer' lives the vision of supporting adults to be resilient and cared for. Leaders are empowered by relationships within the GST because there are opportunities to share their vision and skills.

Pupils are provided with meaningful opportunities to be agents of positive change. Adults encourage them to be socially responsible, improving the local area. As a result, the school council contributes to the local '20 is Plenty' traffic calming campaign. Teachers provide learning activities that prompt pupils' responses against injustice globally. For example, writing letters to an environmental campaigner. Pupil leadership is a strength of St Mary's, with all year 6 pupils assigned a role. This

provides them with a voice to make the school the best it can be. The Starfish Malawi link allows pupils to make a dignified Christian response where there is poverty. Teachers also plan enriching opportunities for pupils to learn about a contrasting culture, for example, Malawian art. This deepens pupils' understanding and their appreciation of a contrasting society.

RE has a high priority within the school. The curriculum is carefully sequenced as a result of effective leadership. The school makes good use of diocesan training. This supports teachers' confidence when introducing pupils to a range of world views. Pupils clearly enjoy their learning, recounting visitors who share their beliefs and religious practices. Teachers foster an environment of enquiry and debate. Older pupils are challenged in their learning. For example, by comparing religious beliefs about creation to the science of the 'Big Bang'. As a result, they are confident to speak about their own views. School leaders share their monitoring with the local committee and GST. However, this does not enable all leaders to evaluate the impact of the curriculum. Pupils make progress in line with age expectations. They demonstrate an understanding of core beliefs and practices within Christianity. However, effective learning about a range of religious and non-religious worldviews is not as established.

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	26 January 2024	URN	140026
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	214
Diocese	Guildford		
MAT/Federation	The Good Shepherd Trust (GST)		
Headteacher	Sheila Buckley		
Chair	James Friend		
Inspector	Helen Crolla	No.	918