Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Vigor and St John Church of England Primary School

Vision

We are building a loving and sustainable community of adventurous lead learners.

Central to this vision are four key dispositions (our cornerstones) that we aim to develop in our children within and beyond the classroom.

Being adventurous, being ethical, being connected, being unique.

Underpinned by Psalm 91: 4. He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge

St Vigor and St John Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The school's leadership team has embedded a deeply, Christian vision. This empowers pupils and adults to be confident and aspirational learners. As a result, the vision has a profound impact on pupils' learning, behaviour and wellbeing.
- The school creates a culture of exceptional care and support, where the wellbeing of all is prioritised. This is inspired by the vision for a safe and loving community. It ensures that adults and pupils are treated very well.
- Collective worship is central to life at St Vigor and St John. It provides meaningful moments in which all can grow spiritually. This is due to the way that worship creates a powerful sense of peace and calm within this Church school community.
- The school's innovative and creative curriculum explicitly reflects the vision, its four cornerstones and values. It is highly motivating, enabling pupils to grow in confidence and thrive.
- Strong leadership in religious education (RE) has established a challenging and relevant curriculum which enhances pupils' learning. This has a positive effect on their understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews.

Development Points

- Embed the school's understanding of spirituality and build on spiritual opportunities for pupils and adults. This is to deepen pupil and adult spiritual flourishing.
- Embed the school's new assessment strategies into the RE curriculum. This is to enable teachers to support their pupils to make good progress.

Inspection Findings

A deeply Christian vision is embedded at St Vigor and St John. The verse from Psalms creates a vision which is a unifying force at the heart of this Church school community. The words explicitly promote the sense of school as a loving and secure setting in which adults and pupils can thrive. In this way, the vision has a very positive effect on pupils' learning and behaviour. It promotes aspirational and confident learners because pupils recognise the love and safety within their school community. The trust provides exceptional support for the strategic direction of the school. It also has a powerful impact on promoting the school's Christian vision. Relevant professional development is provided through the diocese and trust. This enables staff to flourish as well as resulting in beneficial outcomes for pupils' learning. The church has a significant presence in school reflecting its strong partnership. School leaders, including governors and trustees know the school very well. As a result, they have been able to identify areas for development and take action. This is evident in the focus on spirituality and RE.

The school's vibrant and exciting curriculum provides a great breadth of rich and creative experiences. Pupils talk with animation about their learning. They recognise how the cornerstones are linked to the whole of their school experience. In this way the vision is a living reality. A set of well-chosen values weave through the curriculum and daily life. An explicit focus on providing innovative and engaging activities ensures that pupils enjoy their learning. Opportunities are constantly adapted to best develop pupils' wide range of talents and interests. Events, such as Pancake Day races and walks to places in the local area stimulate and excite pupils. Trips to 'Young Voices' in Birmingham enable them to 'be connected' to people and places further away. Consequently, the curriculum is fully focussed on meeting the needs of pupils and is inclusive and motivating. Pupils are supported and enabled to be 'adventurous' by taking risks with their learning. This encourages them to grow in confidence and self-esteem. As a result of far-sighted actions by leaders and staff, the potential of pupils, including those who are vulnerable is transformed. A challenging 'Personal Development Passport' is explicitly linked to the vision. It enthuses pupils and affirms their unique journey in life. Staff and pupils share a developing understanding of spirituality. Although in its early stages, it is beginning to have a clear impact on pupils' learning, behaviour and wellbeing.

Collective worship is central to the school day and has a significant impact on enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. Settings such as the church and the school grounds, as well as various group sizes, invite differing responses from pupils. Anglican traditions, such as lighting candles with and the school prayer based on the vision, promote spiritual flourishing. Prayers, reflection and times of quiet are integral to the day. These moments are valued and described by pupils as 'calming'. Themes which include the school's Christian values are explored in depth. This is evident during a focus on the healing effect of forgiveness in friendship. Bible stories, including Jesus healing the paralysed man, are used exceptionally well to explore and extend pupils' understanding. Probing, challenging questions inspire and stimulate thinking that is shared to promote spirituality. Pupils' views are invited regularly, highly valued and addressed.

St Vigor and St John is an exceptionally warm and nurturing community, where pupils and adults are treated in an exemplary manner. Christian values of unconditional love and friendship, for example, are very well understood by pupils and central to school life. In this way, the vision has a profound effect on the way they care for and encourage one another. Older pupils encourage younger ones both during social times and as reading buddies. All ages enthusiastically support one another's achievements and recognise caring behaviour by 'passing on a band'. The pastoral care shown to pupils by staff and leaders is of the highest quality. This includes a concerted approach

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to supporting families during difficult times. A high priority is placed on the mental health and wellbeing of adults and pupils. Staff are a supportive and friendly team, passionate about their work at St Vigor and St John.

The school's vision creates a respectful culture of responsibility and justice. As a result, interactions are based on the value of friendship. This strengthens the sense of a harmonious, secure and open community. Pupils understand the need to show responsibility both in school and beyond. For instance, they enjoy taking responsibility for organising games in the playground and leading the four cornerstones' teams. In line with the vision of 'being ethical' and 'being connected' they support various charities and projects. These include volunteering as litter pickers and supporting good causes at a local festival. Pupils make decisions to support local and global charities which are aligned with their vision. The school is fully committed to working with a variety of providers which are widening pupils' understanding of the world. These include partnerships with sports clubs and the nearby independent school. Pupils support the church's work in the village, for instance, by showing hospitality and singing to the elderly residents. In this way, the church and village connected by the vision of a loving community.

Leaders have a passionate and ambitious vision for RE. This ensures that it is at the heart of this Church school's curriculum. Relevant training from the trust has strengthened subject leadership. Consequently, staff feel well supported by the way expertise is shared at a group and personal level. Pupils show respect and curiosity for a diverse range of faiths and worldviews. They understand the diverse nature of Christianity as a global faith. Frequent visits are made to the local churches as well as to places of worship such as a temple and synagogue. Innovative and exciting approaches are used to stimulate learning. For example, creative activities are used widely, including outdoor learning. These contribute to pupils' positive attitudes and developing spirituality. The curriculum is well planned and effectively balanced. It is fully focussed on meeting the needs of pupils as they progress through the school. This includes pupils who are identified as vulnerable.

Leadership from the school and the trust have successfully raised the profile of RE in recent times. The clergy support the teaching of Christianity very effectively by sharing their expertise. This enhances teaching and learning, and is valued by staff. Leaders, including governors, are fully involved in the monitoring and evaluation process. This drives school improvement. For example, the introduction of a more creative approach within RE teaching, which has led to increasing pupil engagement. Consequently, the quality of teaching and learning is good. New assessment strategies have recently been introduced. As a result, there has not been sufficient time for them to embed to reveal an accurate picture of progress.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Wells Road, Chilcompton, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 4EX		
Date	17 March 2025	URN	145676
Type of school	Primary	No. of pupils	213
Diocese	Bath and Wells		
MAT	Bath and Wells Multi-Academy Trust.		
Executive Headteacher Head of School	Christopher Chorley Leah Sheppard		
Chair of Governors	Zac Camborne		
Inspector	Daphne Spitzer		