

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Lympsham Church of England Academy

Address	Rectory Way, Lympsham, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset. BS24 0EW		
Date of inspection	8 October 2019	Status of school	Academy inspected as voluntary controlled in the Wessex Learning Trust
Diocese	Bath and Wells	URN	143330

Overall Judgement	How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	Grade	Good
Additional Judgements	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent

School context

Lympsham Church of England Academy is a first school with 105 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages. The school is an academy in the Wessex Learning Trust. In September 2019 the headteacher became executive headteacher for three schools, and a new head of school was appointed from the same date.

The school's Christian vision

We are 'a Christian community with children at its 'heart'. We aim to provide an education of the highest quality where children flourish within a happy, safe, healthy Christian environment and become respectful, self-assured learners. This is based on John 6: 1-13 from which we derive hope, enjoyment, aspiration, respect and thankfulness.

Key findings

- The Christian vision promotes a strong sense of community and has a significant impact on the flourishing of pupils and adults. However, the website needs further explanation of the vision for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- Collective worship is an excellent feature of the school with innovative and imaginative approaches to prayer which are having considerable impact on developing spirituality.
- Led by the executive headteacher and governors, there is a clear sense of church school development both in terms of strategic direction and updating policies and documentation.
- The school has a further journey to make towards excellence through supporting and developing the recently revised leadership structure.

Areas for development

- Extend pupils' understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith so that they deepen their knowledge of the Christian faith in today's world.
- Develop monitoring systems to determine the impact of health and wellbeing measures on the whole school community.
- Improve understanding of the relevance of the vision to global concerns so pupils fully understand the implications of Christian teaching.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Pupils and adults can explain the clear Christian vision of the school but this detail is not evident on the website. It is rooted in biblical teaching and a set of values are derived from the story of the feeding of the five thousand. Pupils understand and show how they apply values of hope, enjoyment, aspiration respect, and thankfulness. There is a very strong sense of community driven by the vision which is evident in the supportive partnerships between school, church and village. The vision is shared and understood by the whole school community, the incumbent and the governors. High quality displays in school remind pupils of the vision. The multi-academy trust supports the vision with a range of shared skills and ideas. Strong spiritual leadership from all adults helps pupils to reflect thoughtfully and behave well. There is also evidence of good practice in implementing the vision. This is seen in the way in which all aspire to be the best that they can be. A new leadership structure is being embedded at the school, and there is strong support and plans for the development of those newly appointed.

The Christian vision is made explicit through the high level care offered in educating all pupils. Parents appreciate the assistance of highly approachable staff with the academic needs of their children. A well-developed system for using additional funding for disadvantaged pupils ensures they make good progress. Staff easily explain how this links to the vision. There is a broad curriculum and an approach to spirituality which is carefully mapped in all subjects. A range of other opportunities are provided in and out of school from which pupils gain great joy. Pupils and adults particularly appreciate 'Pilgrim Days' at the cathedral and other supportive links with the diocese. Pupils readily understand the Christian vision applies to all areas of life both academic and personal.

Pupils are encouraged to explore their potential in various ways. Reflection areas in school and the development of a new reflection garden inspire pupils to think about spiritual aspects of the world. In personal, social and health education other opportunities are used to good effect. This is seen in pupil willingness to reflect readily about hopes and aspirations. Pupils also understand that as Jesus came to bring life in all its fullness so they have a duty to help others achieve the same. This is seen in involvement in charitable projects such as 'School in a Bag' assisting those struggling to gain an education. There is some awareness of global concerns such as poverty and justice, but this is underdeveloped. There are plans to do this through renewing a past link with Cambodia.

A wide range of curriculum opportunities are provided resulting in pupils having a strong appreciation and understanding of God's world. The Christian vision is particularly evident in the work of the school council and pupils are fully aware of ways in which different views can be explored and resolved. The Christian values of respect and friendship underpin the way pupils behave towards each other. They know that as Jesus cared for all, so they should do the same. The impact of the vision is clear with very few instances of bad behaviour. Persisting with the Christian ideal of love and forgiveness in the face of difficulty is readily understood by pupils. The vision inspires pupils to achieve and this is evident in their high academic performance.

There are few children who are not of White British heritage, but staff conscientiously seek to ensure pupils understand the diverse nature of the world. Dignity and respect for all is strongly encouraged, and the use of a 'friendship bench' is one way in which pupils think about the needs of others. Care for the mental health and wellbeing of the school community is developing, although systems for monitoring its impact are at an early stage. Children approach one another with confidence and the influence of the vision is clearly seen in quality relationships.

Pupils participate enthusiastically in worship and prayer and this is definitely the heartbeat of the school. Collective worship provision is excellent and pupils and parents speak enthusiastically about worship. As a result, worship has considerable impact both in and beyond school. Worship is invitational and inspirational with a visible effect on the life of the whole community in terms of spiritual growth in church, village and school. Innovative and imaginative approaches to prayer are a particularly strong feature. The lunchtime prayer club extends collective worship and allows pupils to approach prayer through a wonderful variety of tactile and other sensory experiences. As a result, pupils understand that God may be approached in many various ways and their

sense of personal spirituality is exceptionally well developed. This is so successful that it will be shared throughout the Trust schools. The incumbent and other adult worship leaders strongly support worship through highly effective partnerships. Worship leaders have developed innovative and inspirational festival material such as 'The Star Journey' for Christmas, and a celebration of Ascension on a nearby high point in the landscape. Pupils enthusiastically discuss prayer material in very thoughtful and imaginative ways. Leaders have produced a variety of aids to assist pupils to write prayers which demonstrate high quality reflection. The vision is expressed in worship and shows that all are valued by God and can contribute unique gifts. Anglican and other practice is evident and pupils readily think about how the material applies to their lives. Opportunities are available for children to plan worship on various occasions, and monitoring and evaluating collective worship is very strong and recorded in various ways.

Religious education is a separate subject and is well planned and taught. The religious education leader is newly appointed but is strongly supported by school leadership through professional development opportunities. This allows staff to flourish in line with the school's vision and promotes confident teaching. Materials in use include the 'Understanding Christianity' resource which has significant impact in helping pupils understand the Bible. Pupils have a thoughtful understanding of the significance of Christianity as a living faith with its effect on society. There is less understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith. Pupils understand the importance of studying world faiths and speak confidently about their symbols and artefacts. Work is well produced and regularly marked with some individual verbal feedback.

Executive Headteacher	Fiona Robertson
Inspector's name and number	Rev Jeremy Hellier 899