



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Fishbourne Church of England Primary School	
Address	Roman Way, Chichester, PO19 3QS

School vision

There is only one you in this great big world... make it a better place!

Uniquely created by God, each and every member of our learning community has an important contribution to make both to our school and to the wider world. Our shared Christian faith is an important part of school life. Our vision statement for our school is 'ONLY ONE YOU' – inspired and supported by Psalm 119 – 'God you made me; you created me.' We believe that there is only one you in this great big world... and it is our responsibility to use our unique gifts and talents to make the world a better place to be.

School strengths

- Leaders demonstrate a clear understanding of the Christian vision of the school and how it is underpinned through biblical teaching.
- Inspired by values rooted in the vision, a deeply embedded, nurturing culture ensures that adults and pupils treat each other well. The wellbeing of all is a priority, and as a direct result of this, all flourish.
- Adults and pupils value the opportunity to gather as one school within collective worship. Shaped by the Anglican foundation of the school, worship expresses the invitational principles of its vision.
- There is an active culture of justice where everyone takes responsibility for themselves and others. Advocacy and social action are part of the fabric of the school. The school transforms lives as a result.
- Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a challenging and relevant curriculum which enhances pupils' learning. This positively impacts on pupils' understanding of a diverse range of religions and worldviews, including Christianity.

Areas for development

- Increase the regular contributions of pupils in worship so that all are fully included and their spiritual development is further enriched.
- Expand planned opportunities in the curriculum to further enhance pupils' spiritual development.
- Extend partnership work beyond the local community so that the Christian vision is more widely expressed.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision 'There is only one you in this great big world... make it a better place!' is deeply rooted in all aspects of Fishbourne. Anchored in Psalm 119, it drives decision making at every level and is readily expressed. Leaders, including governors, take great care to design,

implement and monitor the work of the school. As a result, the school's expression of its vision is seen, felt and heard every day.

High levels of expertise, knowledge, and skill in adults create a culture of learning in which pupils achieve well. Robust governance is evident in extensive monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, the vision is seen and felt throughout practice as well as policy. The work of the foundation governors is especially striking in safeguarding the trust deed of the school. As a result of visits and the work of committees, the governing board is well informed. This means next steps to further improve are precise and targeted. The vision is woven throughout the bold curriculum. Academically, it demands thought from pupils and expects knowledge to be accumulated over time. Contexts for learning, such as Early Years outside spaces and the choice of texts for English, embrace risk. Consequently, pupils learn to think for themselves. The school's current spirituality statement focuses specifically on worship. Although pupils' spiritual development goes well beyond what is outlined, there are not routinely planned opportunities across the curriculum. Reflection about learning by pupils is rich with the vision's concept of making the world a better place readily expressed by all. Leaders carefully and regularly monitor the quality of provision. This ensures the curriculum reflects the vision. Vulnerable pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), are supported and achieve well. This is due to the effective leadership of SEND. Lessons and units of work are shaped by a personalised approach that lives out the vision. The school listens acutely to its community and as a result all are known. The quality of the relationships throughout the school creates a dynamic, active, and relentless compassion for one another and for God's world.

Worship is enthusiastically enjoyed by all in the school community. It is inclusive with word, song and reflection used to engage those present. It celebrates the school's vision with a range of Christian worship styles experienced by all. The pupil led worship team helps to plan and lead special acts of worship that track the Anglican Church calendar. Regular planned pupil involvement in worship is less developed. Pupils can explain how worship reflects Christian beliefs with confidence. They understand how the daily lighting of a candle represents Jesus as the Light of the World. The Bible is important to the school community and anchors both daily and special worship. Prayer is described as 'talking to God'. Balanced with the school's deeply reflective culture, the stillness of worship is inclusive and for all. There is a striking partnership with a local secondary school which provides worship leaders on a fortnightly basis. The visitors describe their work as ministry. Fishbourne pupils are inspired by this worship and value it highly. Strong and lasting relationships exist with the local church. Mutually beneficial, the partnership sustains the 'volunteer army' visitor reading programme in school and pupil attendance at the parish family service. The 'storyteller' group of parish visitors lead a regular act of worship, sharing bible stories. As a result, there is an overwhelming sense of community where those in school and in the community are known. This creates a very strong sense of belonging.

Relationships throughout the school are deeply nourishing. All are recognised to be made in the image of God, accepted and treated with dignity. The expressed vision creates an active acceptance of all, where uniqueness is celebrated and sets people free. As a result, pupils and adults can flourish in a culture that transcends tolerance. The curriculum lifts perspectives beyond the school gate and provides a globally anchored respect for difference. Being part of the Fishbourne 'shoal' is transformational. Pupils and adults clearly articulate how the school's approaches to mental health and wellbeing are vital to the flourishing of all. There is a clear sense of watching over one another in love, ready to act to make the world a better place. The school is as a pillar of the community providing space for the uniqueness of all. It is understood that together everyone has the strength to make the world a better place. Attendance is high because everyone highly values coming to school.

Behaviour is exemplary. Where conflict occurs, it is resolved quickly with authentic forgiveness and a peaceful manner. Bullying is rare because there are highly effective procedures and routines in place. The vision is lived out in how people treat one another with God's unique creation recognised in all. The school is a safe space where everyone works together constructively for the

common good. As a result, all have the skills needed to disagree well and find just solutions. The school maintains a range of local partnerships within the parish and the diocese. They are a key expression of the school's vision to make the world a better place. Pupils recognise injustice and the impact people have on each other. Inspired by a visit to Chichester Cathedral, pupils created art to sell at a pop up gallery. Funds were donated to support refugees. Social action is regular and part of the culture. Pupils chose to donate multiple copies of a book that epitomises the school's vision to every refugee arrival at a local charity. They also raised funds for the installation of a defibrillator on the school site specifically so it was available for the local community. The culture of the school expects pupils and adults to be agents of change in God's world. The school provides a voice to pupils who readily stand up, striving to make the world a better place.

The RE curriculum meets requirements for a Church school and ensures progression for pupils. Leaders have used high quality resources to inform its design and balance. Pupils develop an understanding of Christianity as a living global faith and of a range of religions and worldviews. The subject has a high profile in the school. Lessons are a safe space for the discussion of faith, philosophical concepts and human science. Pupils enjoy the discursive approach that demands thought and careful consideration. As a result, they can explain their learning in detail. Due to the actions of leaders, clear systems such as precise teaching plans are in place. This helps teachers know what needs to be learnt by pupils. Training means leaders are well placed to extend the quality of RE. Expertise is effectively cascaded to teachers.

The inspection findings indicate that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling people to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	25 September 2023	URN	125983
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	210
Diocese	Chichester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Naomi Day		
Chair	Julie Barwell		
Inspector	Andy Higgs	No.	2230