

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Shipham Church of England First School			
Address	Turnpike Road, Shipham, Winscombe, Somerset. BS25 1TX		
Date of inspection	03 December 2019	Status of school	Voluntary controlled first school
Diocese	Bath and Wells	URN	123812

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 Judgement	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Good

School context

Shipham C of E First School is a first school with 68 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. No 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 acting headteacher is in post for this term only before a substantive appointment is made. The school is preparing to join a local multi academy trust.

The school's Christian vision

Shipham C of E First School is a highly inclusive school where we value all our pupils.

Our vision is underpinned by a biblical quote:

'They will soar on wings like Eagles' Isaiah 40:31

We aim to create a safe and happy environment where each child can grow academically, socially, spiritually and emotionally.

Key findings

- Under strong, visionary Christian leadership, this is an inclusive and caring school where all pupils and adults are respected and made welcome.
- There is a clear Christian vision which underpins the life of the school, enabling all to flourish despite the new addition of a biblical quotation not yet being fully embedded.
- Partnerships support the Christian distinctiveness of the school, and these are a strength.
- The quality of RE in the school is good. Pupils understand Christianity to be a living, world faith.
- Collective worship, whilst enjoyed by pupils is not yet fully developed to include pupil planning and participation.

Areas for development

- Secure the new aspirational biblical quotation into the existing vision so that it further supports the management and daily life of the school whilst raising pupil achievement.
- Involve pupils more fully in the planning and leading of collective worship so that they improve their understanding of worship and opportunities provided in school.
- Encourage the development of pupils' own responses to global issues so that they can take some ownership of how they translate their personal thoughts and feelings into social action.

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

In line with its Christian vision rooted in biblical teaching, this is an inclusive school where everyone understands the school's vision and feels happy and safe. All pupils and adults are encouraged to flourish as everyone is welcomed into this 'big family' and is cared for as an individual created in the image of God. Members of staff support one another and all children are encouraged to achieve their full potential. Further demonstrating the vision, attendance is good and attainment and progress are in line with expectations, though statistically, slightly below national averages because of the small pupil numbers. Children and adults say that they feel valued and respected and that their voices are listened to. The school council is made up of pupil representatives from all year groups and responds to requests from pupils placed in the school suggestion box, for example, caring about their music teacher by requesting the replacement of the wobbly piano stool.

Governance of the school is a strength. Governors know their school and challenge and support the headteacher. They visit regularly and monitor its success as a church school. Though the headteacher is currently temporary, she is working with the governors to move the school ethos forward with the adoption of the Bible verse 'They will soar on wings like Eagles' Isaiah 40:31 to complement the existing school vision. The importance of this is still being put into action. Pupils are aware of how their toy eagle is awarded for good behaviour in the playground but are not yet so aware of the aspirational aim of the quotation. The school has eight values rotating as foci for collective worship. The school community is familiar with them and uses them to support their vision.

The school enjoys a number of successful partnerships which support the Christian distinctiveness of the school. As a member of the Mendip Edge Federation with one governing body, a shared caring culture and a shared Christian ethos committee, the school feels enabled. This co-operative working supports pupil achievement through smoother transition between phases and collaboration in a range of academic and pastoral areas. The school is supported by the Diocese and attends the leavers' Pilgrim Day at Wells Cathedral as a focus for moving on to middle school. The school works closely with the local parish church, particularly the rector who is a regular visitor. He has introduced the children to such things as a shared communion, baptism and burial, by using items with which they are familiar, such as baptising a doll.

Pupils are being encouraged to develop their personal spirituality through a range of opportunities designed to enable them to explore their own thinking and feelings. Collective worship is central to the life of the school. Children enjoy worship and participate enthusiastically but are not yet fully involved in planning and leading it. In line with the school's vision for holistic education, a range of inspirational visitors including the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the police have contributed to worship and pupil well-being by encouraging children to look after themselves and each other. They also help them to understand their place in the world. To support personal reflection and well-being, each classroom has a well-used reflection area equipped with calming words, prayers and books, supporting pupil mental health. One area has a worry jar which enables them to secretly pass a message to their teacher. Outdoors, pupils have a willow dome which is a peaceful place; somewhere to go when lonely or needing to think. Children say that they watch for others who sit there and like the good Samaritan, whom they have learned about in Religious Education (RE), go and offer to befriend them. More formally, a prayer tree in the hall is used to offer prayers to God, written on snowflakes. Pupils are moved by national and international events heard about in worship and RE. They support charities and write prayers asking for God's intervention, but also have other ideas about how they would like to respond to the needs of others saying that they want to affect fairness for everyone in God's world.

Shaped by its Christian vision, the school curriculum is broad, balanced inclusive and aspirational. This includes making the most of its beautiful surroundings in a Forest School Area. Children are encouraged to explore creation by growing and cooking their own vegetables and tending chickens. The school also has its own green club where, so keenly have the children responded to recycling, that the school has now become a centre for the village community, with a TerraCycle bin for more specialised recycling. Extra-curricular provision includes a choir which visits various places in the community including an old people's lunch, to entertain with their singing. The school is at the heart of its community often jointly participating in charitable and other activities together. For example, a recent jumble sale, open gardens event and the provision of before and after school clubs to support working parents. The parish church is visited regularly by the whole school community and services are held there every half term and for major Christian festivals. Parents attend these services and generally feel

included in school life. They feel well informed and on a recent questionnaire one parent thanked the school for being 'amazing.'

Religious education across the school is effective and delivers the school's vision for pupils to understand and respect people of different faiths. In a recent multi-faith week, pupils enjoyed exploring different faiths and creatively presenting their findings to parents on the last day. Development of pupils' thinking and questioning skills are evident in their enjoyment of wrestling with big questions and countering them with equally challenging thoughts, such as, "What do Jewish people believe that heaven is like?" Pupils understand the trinitarian nature of God which they have likened to a Twix chocolate bar; and they are familiar with many Bible stories and the parables of Jesus. They say that they are influenced by them, one girl saying that the parable of the lost sheep makes her feel safe, knowing that God is always with her.

Headteacher	Jo Dodd
Inspector's name and number	Alison Appleyard 877