

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Oxon Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Racecourse Lane, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury, SY3 5BJ
School vision	
<p>‘Life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10)</p> <p>We have a clear commitment to promote a strong Christian ethos. This culminates in a desire to enable children to live ‘Life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10). Key elements include providing a happy and secure atmosphere, promoting a love of learning and striving to deliver the best for every child.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded Christian vision is embraced by the whole school community at Oxon. Adults and pupils explain the positive impact this has by encouraging them to be ‘the best they can be’. • The rich curriculum enables pupils to develop curiosity and a genuine love of learning. This supports them to live out the vision of ‘life in all its fullness’. • Highly effective and supportive subject leadership of religious education (RE) results in a curriculum which is exciting and challenging. This helps pupils to develop a deep understanding about a range of world religions and non- religious viewpoints. • Underpinned by exceptionally strong relationships, there is a relentless focus on meeting the needs of individuals. This results in impressive support for mental health and wellbeing within a safe and nurturing environment. • Strong relationships with the church and local clergy enrich and enhance the life of this Church school. Consequently, staff and pupils develop a deeper understanding of the teachings of Jesus, the Christian vision and associated values. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop more intrinsic opportunities for spiritual development across the whole curriculum. This is to support pupils to develop their own spiritual sensitivities about the wonder of life. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision and associated values are the golden threads which bind this vibrant Church school community together. Guided by Jesus’ promise of ‘life in all its fullness’, leaders attach significant importance to the development of the whole child. This holistic approach provides a wealth of opportunities extending far beyond the curriculum. Pupils at Oxon know that they are valued because they are each unique and special. This promotes a deep sense of belonging and provides them with the confidence to try new things. Championed by the aspirational vision, leaders place great importance on reflective self-evaluation and appropriate training. The highly effective governing body supports leaders to monitor the impact of the Christian vision. Consequently, the vision is a lived reality which enables the whole school community to flourish together.</p>	

Leaders have designed a curriculum which fully embraces the vision of 'life in all its fullness'. Reflected in the promise to deliver 'the best for every child', there is a relentless focus on meeting individual needs. Sensitive adaptations are made for pupils with special educational needs and those who are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged. Furthermore, rich and varied learning experiences acknowledge individual learning styles. Pupils display high levels of self-belief and understand the importance of resilience. They accurately recognise how 'you have to keep trying even when things are hard'. Attendance is high and behaviour is exemplary. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic about learning. They thrive personally, socially and academically. Leaders plan a wealth of enrichment activities. This inspires pupils to be curious and to challenge their own thinking. For example, the topic 'reuse, reduce and recycle' during Arts Week encourages pupils to consider how they can reduce pollution. The school's offer of extra-curricular activities is exceptional. The bold decision to offer clubs free of charge to everyone provides a powerful example of how the vision is a lived reality. This enables all pupils to shine, regardless of personal circumstances. Pupils' understanding of the vision is deep and meaningful. For example, they accurately link it to the wide range of clubs, explaining 'when you try new things, you learn and grow'. Leaders have created a spirituality policy and staff have accessed appropriate training. Collective worship plays an important role in supporting pupils to develop an understanding of the spiritual dimension of life. However, the planning of explicit opportunities for spiritual development throughout the curriculum is in the early stages.

The vision-driven RE curriculum enables pupils to develop a deep understanding of Christianity and a range of world religions. Furthermore, it acknowledges that not all people follow a faith. Consequently, pupils recognise the different things that people believe and the impact this has on the way they live their lives. Pupils value the opportunity to explore big questions. They express their own thoughts and make meaningful connections. Pupils understand the role of the Bible in the Christian faith. They explain how parables have hidden meanings which can provide guidance in difficult times. Subject leadership is impactful and staff appreciate the support and training they receive. This is further enhanced by regular visits from the clergy to support RE teaching. This results in a cycle of continuous improvement. Living out the vision of 'life in all its fullness', leaders are outward-facing. The subject leader supports the diocese in a variety of ways. This includes leading a RE hub for local schools. Consequently, skills and expertise are shared beyond the school community.

The core Christian values of love, hope, respect and faith support pupils to understand the importance of challenging injustice. Leaders have created a bespoke long term 'Charities Strategy'. This enables the school community to support charities that link closely to the school vision and associated values. Pupils are inspired to take actions to challenge injustice through the curriculum and collective worship. This includes writing letters and designing posters to highlight issues such as homelessness. Members of the school council and house captains relish the opportunities they are given to have a positive influence on their school community. Furthermore, a partnership with a school in Kenya provides a valuable global link. This supports pupils to develop an understanding of the wider world. Fundraising for clean water and toilet blocks for the Kenyan school demonstrate the far-reaching and powerful impact of the Christian vision.

Collective worship makes a significant contribution to the spiritual life of the school. Meticulous planning by leaders which is linked to the monthly school value invites pupils to explore each one in depth. This deepens understanding of the values. Questions link Bible events to real life experiences. This enables pupils to consider their own personal thoughts. The impact of collective worship is evident within pupil prayer books as well as in the actions pupils take. For example, following a time of worship about loneliness, members of the prayer groups talked to pupils who were alone at playtime. Throughout the year, all pupils who wish to may plan and deliver worship. This supports spiritual flourishing because pupils feel a deep sense of respect. They know that their views are

respected. Pupils understand the power of prayer and pray spontaneously. They use reflection areas around school and outdoors. Links with the local church are particularly strong. Weekly visits from the clergy to deliver collective worship deepen pupils' and adults' understanding of the Bible.

Relationships are characterised by the core values of love and respect. A strong focus on wellbeing and mental health for adults and pupils helps to create a safe and nurturing environment. The vision is epitomised by the way in which leaders support staff to achieve a good work-life balance. Staff appreciate this along with the many opportunities they are given to develop professionally. They describe 'feeling proud to be part of the Oxon family'. Consequently, morale is high and staff turnover is exceptionally low. The vision, along with highly effective Christian leadership, provides a solid foundation during times of personal challenge. Staff, parents and pupils recognise the ways in which leaders demonstrate genuine compassion. Parents accurately describe how this makes 'a real difference'. Furthermore, the governing body and local clergy provide unwavering support for senior leaders in times of need or crisis.

Oxon is a place where the Christian vision of 'life in all its fullness' is genuinely lived out. Leaders have created an environment which actively encourages personal growth. As a result, adults and pupils flourish because they feel truly valued as individuals.

The inspection findings indicate that Oxon Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	20 May 2024	URN	123502
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	423
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Mark Rogers		
Chair	Mike Beddows		
Inspector	Joanne Hyslop	No.	972