

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Fairford Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	The Park, Leafield Road, Fairford, GL7 4JQ
School vision	
<p>Actively learning together in a safe, happy environment shaped by the certainty that each individual is loved and known by God.</p> <p>'I have written your name on the palms of my hands.' Isaiah 49:16</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deeply embedded, strong Christian vision, known and articulated by leaders at all levels, drives the strategic direction of the school. Pupils and adults flourish because of the firmly held conviction that each person is known and loved by God and others. • Collective worship is valued by all. It provides opportunities for pupils and adults to be still and reflect on the school values. Through this, pupils and adults grow spiritually. • Care and nurture are hallmarks of this school. Each person is valued as an individual and, through love, are supported to become the person they were created to be. This in turn enables pupils to become agents for change in their community. • Relationships with the local church are strong. Together, the church and school form a partnership that is valued and an integral part of the local community. This supports all to know that they are loved. • Pupils enjoy their religious education (RE) lessons. It provides a safe space to encounter a variety of religious and non-religious worldviews. Pupils engage with thoughtful questions that supports their growing knowledge and understanding. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen the definition and extend the conversation of spirituality within the school so that the overall understanding of spiritual development and its impact is known more widely. • Further develop greater consistency within the RE curriculum so that pupils gain an even deeper knowledge of core concepts within religious and non-religious worldviews. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Fairford is a school characterised through love. This is because the Christian vision, is known and lived out by all. Rooted in the understanding found in Isaiah 49, that all are known and loved by God, the vision encourages all to 'be the change' in the world. Leaders at all levels articulate the vision passionately and use it to drive all decisions made. This in turn leads to flourishing that is wide-reaching across the school community. The school is supported by a committed and effective governing body. They talk passionately and practically about the school's vision and the impact that it has. Governors carefully consider the vision when making decisions within meetings. They monitor it well, offering effective challenge and support. As a result, the school remains driven in ensuring the vision has a lasting impact on everyone in the school community.</p>	

The vision is at the heart of the curriculum which strives to be ambitious for all. It gives pupils the opportunities to ask 'big questions' and look beyond themselves at the wider world. Through love, pupils are encouraged to take risks and understand that there is no cap on what they can achieve. Pupils' interests are considered so that they flourish. Extra-curricular activities, such as fencing and archery, are carefully chosen to give pupils, opportunities that they may not have had otherwise. This is because of the core belief that each person is an individual known by God and by the staff in school. As a result, pupils are confident, happy, and resilient with a drive to be the best they can be. Aspects of spirituality are developing through the curriculum. Pupils consider awe and wonder, through topics such as 'polar explorers' that enables them to examine how they fit into the tapestry of the world. This in turn enables pupils to think deeply about how they might make effective changes within the world in which they live. However, how spirituality is defined and shared, is not consistent. As a result some wider opportunities for spiritual development are missed.

Collective worship is an important part of the school day. It is highly valued and enables all to grow as individuals loved by God. As one pupil commented, 'When we come together, it feels like a second family.' It gives the opportunities to stop and breathe and the space to think carefully about the school values. As a result, pupils and adults have an experience of something bigger than themselves. This in turn enables them to grow spiritually. Bible stories encourage pupils to consider their school values, which are lived out practically and naturally in the school. Worship is inclusive in that it gives pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) the opportunities to engage with content. Pupils reflect well on how worship motivates them to live differently and talk about how it encourages them during difficult times.

School and parish church benefit from a strong relationship rooted in love, which is expressed through the wider community. The church sensitively supports the school through challenging times, including bereavements of children in school and family members of staff. This is highly valued by all involved and contributes to healing and growth. Shared services and prayer spaces are examples of careful collaboration which in turn supports the flourishing of the whole school community.

The behaviour of pupils in the school is exemplary. They live out the vision that each person is loved by God by treating one another with dignity and respect. Friendships extend beyond age groups and older pupils ensure that the younger ones feel part of the Fairford family. Mental health and wellbeing of all is high priority. Leaders ensure that staff are well cared for, which enables them to care for their pupils. The shared responsibility 'to be known and loved' means that staff notice one another's needs and actively support each other to thrive. Staff are valued as individuals and opportunities are taken by leaders to ensure that they grow and develop personally and vocationally. This is because the vision drives relationships between all.

The vision is reflected inwardly, loved by God, and outwardly, to be the change. As a result, carefully chosen books and resources provide opportunities to develop pupils' understanding of justice and diversity. Pupils recognise that there are 'no outsiders' and that all are welcome as part of the community. They are encouraged to think widely about the world around them. Carefully chosen themes, and well-planned acts of worship, inspire pupils to become agents for change. For example, through looking at creation, they engaged their parents in conversations about the importance of looking after the planet. Furthermore, pupils notice that there is a need to do more for the homeless during the cold months of winter and have worked with the local church to address needs.

Through RE, pupils are growing in the knowledge of religious and non-religious worldviews. The subject has a high priority in the school because leaders recognise its role in supporting pupils' knowledge of the diverse world in which they live. Relationships with the diocese help support

development in RE. Key information is shared with all staff by the RE leader. RE provides a safe space for pupils to discuss ideas and explore big questions concerning religious understanding. The curriculum is carefully mapped out across each year group, using the local syllabus. Opportunities to enhance the learning through visits to places of worship are also carefully planned. This in turn supports the development of pupils' knowledge in RE.

They enjoy their lesson and share their knowledge effectively. There are opportunities for them to understand the impact of religious concepts on a believer in Christianity and a range of faiths. However, this is inconsistent. As a result, not all opportunities are taken to develop a deeper understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Caring, nurture and family sum up this Church school, which sits at the heart of the community. Pupils and adults flourish because they are known and loved by all.

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

Information			
Inspection date	30 November 2023	URN	115622
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	327
Diocese	Gloucester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Julie Fellows		
Chair	Clare Muir		
Inspector	Duncan Hutchison	No.	2119