

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Crowhurst Church of England Primary School			
Address	Forewood Lane, Crowhurst, Battle, TN33 9AJ		
Date of inspection	27 November 2019	Status of school	Voluntary Controlled Primary
Diocese	Chichester	URN	114497

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	Excellent
Additional Judgement	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent

School context

Crowhurst is a primary school with 103 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. There are no pupils who 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. Staffing in the school is very stable. The headteacher has been in post since 2007, only one teaching appointment has been made during this period.

The school's Christian vision

In our church school community every individual is valued, nurtured and helped to flourish as we learn, live and love the world and our neighbours as ourselves.

'Love the Lord your God ... and love our neighbour as ourselves' (Matthew 37-39)

Key findings

- The cohesive and deeply rooted Christian vision is integral to all aspects of the school's life and work. It profoundly influences decision making and practice at all levels.
- Extremely strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with other schools, the Church, the village and the diocese underpin the deep moral purpose held by the school and contribute to the inclusive Christian culture.
- Relationships and partnerships nurture and support each individual member of the school family, as unique children of God, enabling them to flourish and succeed.
- Collective worship is effectively planned and guided well by the school vision and values. It is greatly enhanced through the school's close relationship with the Church.
- Religious Education (RE) makes a substantial contribution to the school's Christian distinctiveness; pupils are inspired by the lessons about Christianity. Teaching about other faiths is effective but not of an equal standard to that of Christianity.

Areas for development

- Formalise and refine the existing governor monitoring of the effectiveness of Crowhurst as a Church school so that it is systematic.
- Raise the quality of teaching and learning of all faiths to the high standards of teaching and learning for Christianity.
- Build on the existing spiritual opportunities offered across the school to develop a shared understanding of spirituality amongst staff.

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

The headteacher is a shining example of Christian leadership and effectively lives out the vision of this Church school. The vision is pictorially represented with the words Learn, Love, Live, God, Yourself, World, Neighbour, on the school logo with the ancient yew tree growing in St George's churchyard. All members of the school community know the vision and its biblical links well and can explain the impact they have on their lives and the choices they make. One parent reported that they will not be buying a Christmas tree this year because, after a lesson on 'Christmas hopes', their child has asked for the money to be given to a homeless charity instead. The vision underpins all decision making, policies and routines in the school. The school nourishes the wellbeing of adults and pupils, enabling them to flourish and achieve well. Governors visit and monitor the school regularly, however, they do not have a formalised system for monitoring the effectiveness of the school as a Church school.

The school has built substantial partnerships, which have developed and refined its practice. Crowhurst shares its expertise well with others and receives ideas willingly. The headteacher has taken advantage of diocesan training, which has greatly influenced and benefitted many aspects of the school. The close proximity of St George's Church has supported a strong relationship between Church and school. Worship is held in the church every Wednesday and during their walk to the church staff and pupils are welcomed by the sound of Year 5 and 6 pupils ringing the church bells.

The school has devised a creative curriculum which reflects the vision, teaching pupils to 'learn, live and love the world and our neighbours as ourselves'. There are strong cross curricular connections with meaningful links to religious education (RE). The topic on India in one class included learning about the Hindu faith, geography, batik work, writing poems and recipes and cookery. Spiritual development opportunities are embraced throughout the curriculum. Pupils routinely have time to reflect on their learning, explore deeply theologically or morally difficult questions and make creative responses to learning challenges. These all contribute to pupils' spiritual and moral development. A culture of respectful debate, where opinions can be offered safely, ensures that pupils are positive about their learning. All groups including the most vulnerable flourish. Progress is universally good, with many pupils exceeding national expectations.

Pupils have an exceptional understanding of their roles and responsibilities as citizens and servants. Their desire to help one another and those outside the immediate school community embodies the school vision to 'Love the Lord your God ... and love your neighbour as yourself'. Crowhurst pupils have supported a range of charities across the world and at home. The weekly 'world news' worship has developed a concern for world problems and a sense of justice and fairness. This supports pupils' understanding of Christianity as a global faith and of respecting the diversity of God's world. School staff have taken advantage of diocesan, Erasmus and British Council opportunities to visit schools around the world to experience their education systems, reflect on practice at Crowhurst and forge links.

Excellent relationships abound and as a result, staff, pupils and parents feel valued in belonging to this school community. The stability of the leadership and staff both contribute to this. It is clearly a school where all are signed up to their Christian values of generosity, compassion, hope, wisdom, justice and forgiveness and live by them. This has a positive impact which extends beyond the school and the Church to the village. One parent described how her children had still 'thrived and flourished at the school' during the 'most difficult year of their lives' when she had been unwell and spent many weeks in hospital. Biblical principles of reconciliation and forgiveness underpin the behaviour policy and practice, as a result behaviour is excellent across the school.

Collective worship is seen by all as a central and crucial part of the school day. The incumbent regularly contributes to and leads worship, and this is well received by pupils. Worship is planned jointly with three local Church school headteachers and is led by all teachers. It follows the cycle of the Anglican year and focuses on the school's Christian values. Pupils explain how collective worship gives them confidence to explore and challenge themselves in the way they behave. Learners are always involved in worship, with worship ambassadors leading, evaluating and planning parts of worship. Reflection and prayer are a valued part of the school culture. Pupils talk about how being still and reflective in their own lives can be helpful. The school was an early adopter of prayer spaces, which built on previous experiential activities such as 'Easter outside'. The most recent focused on Remembrance Day. This prompted one pupil to bake and hold

a cake sale and undertake a sponsored run to raise money for the Royal British Legion. The school is a spiritual environment, the new main door and windows design is based on the door and windows in St George's Church, and the church and churchyard is the view through those windows. High quality art-work, created by learners, is displayed on RE boards alongside 'big questions.' Staff have a personal understanding of spirituality but there is not a whole school, shared understanding.

RE lessons offer challenge and engage pupils with deep questions resulting in a high proportion of pupils working above national expectations. Pupils are confident in articulating their learning in RE and how it impacts on the way they choose to live their lives. RE is purposefully led. The subject leader for RE, is actively involved in local RE networks and attends diocesan training and conferences. Staff training in the 'Understanding Christianity' materials has recently been prioritised. Learning about major world faiths is effective but not to the high standards of Christianity. Provision reflects the Church of England's statement of entitlement and statutory requirements for RE are met.

Headteacher	Andrew Jervis
Inspector's name and number	Janice Meyer 921