

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Arundel Church of England Primary School	
Address	Jarvis Road, Arundel, BN18 9HT
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>"Faith, hope and love abide" 1 Corinthians 13.13</p> <p>Growing closer to God in faith;</p> <p>Flourishing through the Gospel of hope;</p> <p>Reaching out to our neighbours in love;</p> <p>Rooted in the Christian faith, and with a love of learning in our hearts, our vision inspires us to grow into the people God is calling us to be.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's well-established and widely-known Christian vision has a profoundly positive impact on the learning and wellbeing of the whole school community. • The strong partnership with the parish church, combined with the inspirational leadership of the experienced headteacher, roots and surrounds the Christian culture of the school in the narrative of the Bible. • The Christian vision runs through the curriculum 'like a golden thread'. As a result, pupils flourish because they understand it deeply and put it into practice in their own lives within and beyond the school. • Collective worship gives pupils a unique insight into the different ways that Christians worship. It is greatly enriched by the religious and spiritual life of the local community. • Teaching and learning in religious education (RE) is excellent, most notably in Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen learners' understanding of worldviews using the same enquiry process that is used when teaching Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. • Use the experience, expertise and knowledge of the headteacher to develop excellence in other Church schools.



Inspection findings

The school's Christian vision is deeply rooted in Christian faith and teaching. Written jointly by the school and the incumbent from St Nicholas it draws together an underpinning theology with the school's philosophy for education. This results in a rich curriculum which supports learners to flourish academically and spiritually. It is absolutely fundamental to the school's life and work and clearly drives decision-making and practice at all levels. Consequently, the behaviour of pupils is exceptional and the care that they show each other is clearly evident. It is a school community where all live the school's Christian vision.

Arundel school focuses its gaze on the Christian values of faith, hope and love (1 Corinthians 13:13). Illustrated by key Bible stories, these three values clearly shape personal and whole school decisions. Parents report that this is repeated at home. All school correspondence concludes with the words 'Yours in faith, hope and love'. This is a powerful example of the biblical rooting of the vision and a clear reminder that the values are lived in the school every day.

Pupils take the lead in reaching out to their neighbours in love. The school community provides a wealth of opportunities for all pupils to lead and engage in positive social action. They support a local homeless charity and projects in India and Sierra Leone. Pupils create, organise and run an admirable number of projects of their own. Parents and carers gladly offer help and support for these projects. Pupils make their own important choices when caring about 'God's precious world'. They have a boundless ambition to help. They are advocates for causes such as reducing the use of palm oil and plastic in the ocean. Fulfilling the vision has spurred them on to give presentations about local causes that they care deeply about to the town council.

'Flourishing through the Gospel of hope' guides leaders and staff to have a clear ambition for all pupils to succeed. All follow the teachings of Jesus as the good shepherd and ensure 'no-one is left behind'. Pupils are well nurtured with high-quality support programmes tailored to their specific needs. They feel safe in their learning and thrive. Pupils make very good progress and many exceed national expectations.

Living their vision of 'reaching out to our neighbours in love' has resulted in an exceptionally compassionate community. Driven by the deep personal faith of the headteacher, partnership working provides many benefits internally and externally. Staff, pupils and parents feel deeply valued and supported. Substantial partnership working with other local Church schools has enhanced provision for all and has resulted in the headteacher mentoring new headteachers.

School life is greatly enhanced by its deep-seated, mutually beneficial relationship with St Nicholas church. School leaders work proactively with many other local church and religious communities. The Bishop of Lewes described the school recently as wearing 'its Christian ethos with such pride'.

Leaders and staff take extensive advantage of Church school training including leadership of Church schools. The vicar from St Nicolas provides monthly training supporting staff to increase their subject knowledge of the Bible. Every half term he coaches pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship. The school has a strong relationship with the diocese. They undertake diocesan training to enhance the expertise of staff who lead worship and for governance. Governors have excellent systems in place to monitor the effectiveness of Arundel School as a Church school. The headteacher was instrumental in creating a network of local Church schools who work together on initiatives such as moderation of RE books. This ensures



that learning in RE is of an exceptionally high standard.


The school applied its Christian vision with an understanding of Christian education to devise its curriculum. Theological, philosophical and spiritual understanding is developed and enhanced through the use of 'big questions' posed across the enquiry-based curriculum such as, 'creation and science: conflicting or complementary?' The curriculum ensures the rounded development of the whole child through academic rigour and spiritual understanding. This clearly supports pupils to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness. Each pupil is nurtured 'to grow into the person God is calling them to be'. Parents affirm that it is a safe and caring school and see this as the outworking of its Christian vision.

Collective worship is seen by all as a central and crucial part of the school day. All staff attend worship and proactively follow up the act of worship message throughout the day. This has created a culture of deep reflection. Pupils clearly articulate how the messages from the Bible are relevant and helpful in their lives and the world today. The impact of this is clearly transformational. Worship is regularly led by an admirable range of enthusiastic church leaders from other local denominations as well as clergy from St Nicholas. This input from the local religious community provides a strong contribution to the Christian ethos of the school. Pupils gain a wide variety of perspectives on faith from these worships. The majority of staff lead and plan worship. Together with the incumbent the headteacher creates the overall worship plan. Staff and pupils then write their own plans. The headteacher's strong personal faith ensures that worship is deeply Christian. Pupils' knowledge and understanding of faith is deepened through worship based on the Anglican year and the school's Christian vision. Pupils clearly articulate how collective worship inspires them. Worship results in a community which is exceptionally caring and resilient yet humble. Reflection and prayer is a highly-valued and normal part of the school culture. Pupils speak extremely confidently about their own use of private prayer and how it is helpful to them. The beautiful peace garden is very accessible and used regularly by many pupils for quiet personal reflection.

RE is strongly led and effectively planned. The expertise of the RE leader has driven forward regular training for staff and improvements in the RE curriculum. RE has a high status at Arundel. The regular training led by the incumbent results in staff having good subject knowledge and consequently, extremely effective teaching and learning. The RE curriculum uses an enquiry-based approach with pupils confidently considering, answering and posing their own philosophical and theological 'big questions'. The marking in RE books is extremely thorough, posing further 'big questions', to extend pupils' thinking.

Pupils enjoy RE, and pupils of all abilities, including the more able, find the lessons thought-provoking and challenging. Pupils articulate very clearly how RE gives them confidence to explore and challenge themselves in the choices that they make in life.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>RE teaching across the school is consistently good and often outstanding. This is particularly evident in the teaching of Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. The spiral curriculum is planned well, so that pupils of all abilities are challenged and make good and often better progress. This enables all pupils to flourish.</p>			
Information				
School	Arundel Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	9 December 2022	
URN	126019	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Chichester	Pupils on roll	204	
Headteacher	Andrew Simpson			
Chair of Governors	Sue Hine			
Inspector	Janice Meyer	No.	921	