

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>St Andrews Church of England Primary School, Hove</b>	
Address	Belfast Street, Hove, BN3 3YT
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)	Good

School's vision
<p>Inspire a love of learning and enjoy 'life in all its fullness' (John 10: 10), ensuring that everyone can flourish and be the best that they can be.</p> <p>We fulfill our vision through the application of our core values: courage, curiosity, joy, love and respect.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian vision is the heartbeat of this excellent Church school. As a result, pupils and adults are flourishing.</li> <li>• Deeply committed and exceptional leadership ensures that the Christian vision drives decision making, transforming the entire school community.</li> <li>• Within this profoundly loving community, the school promotes a strong culture of respect and inclusion where all feel highly valued and cared for.</li> <li>• Invitational collective worship embodies the Christian vision and is a special part of each day. Opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth are rich and highly regarded by staff and pupils.</li> <li>• Pupils talk enthusiastically about religious education (RE) . They have very good understanding of Christianity, however their knowledge of a range of religions and worldviews is less well developed.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable pupils to develop a deeper understanding of religions and worldviews. Ensure that they are able to make links with their learning over time so that they can express what different people believe.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

St Andrew's School is a vibrant, joyful and inclusive community. Exceptional leadership at all levels ensures the Christian vision drives every aspect of school life. Leaders have high ambition for all and clearly articulate how a Christian lens is applied to decision making. There is a strong culture of love, respect and dignity.

School governance is a real strength. Robust systems of monitoring and evaluation mean that governors have a thorough and detailed understanding of the school's priorities. Leaders are forward-thinking and responsive to the community. Inspired by a pupil, a diversity council for pupils was set up. Along with an adult diversity working group, this has been transformational. It provides space for discussion and debate over issues such as anti-racism. A parent representative expressed it as a 'brave move' by leaders, describing the positive impact of having a voice to shape future developments. A strong sense of belonging in the school embraces and celebrates the diversity that families bring to the community.

The deeply loving culture of the school ensures that inclusion is at its heart. Driven by the vision, provision for vulnerable pupils and those with special needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is excellent. A highly-skilled and committed team of staff nurture and support pupils and families. Pupils develop a range of skills and strategies to support their learning, deal with life's challenges and regulate their own emotions. Provision for pupils, support groups for parents and the celebration of achievements for all is transformational. A focus on mental health and well-being for staff and pupils is an expression of the vision, enabling everyone to flourish. Pupils treat each other with dignity and respect, and behave with a positive outlook.

School leaders are relentless in their drive to ensure highly effective teaching enables all to progress and find joy in their learning. Staff share this ambition for pupils. The curriculum is broad, engaging and enriched by excellent opportunities in areas such as sport and music. Pupils are inspired and challenged by the enquiry approach to learning which promotes their curiosity. They gain enjoyment and fulfilment from participating in creative events such as the Brighton Festival children's parade. Parents praise the holistic education that their children receive.

In addition to leaders' convictions to embrace excellence and academic rigour in pursuit of the vision, they have explored and developed an impressive whole school approach to spiritual development. Pupils express this as 'an invisible hole that is filled when we feel a connection with something bigger than ourselves, bringing peace and joy.' They understand that spirituality is different for everyone, and explain how varied opportunities enable them to stop, reflect and connect. The pupil faith council lead opportunities for spiritual development, enabling all pupils to engage in rich experiences. There is a strong culture of prayer and reflection within the school, and spiritual development is threaded through the curriculum.


Excellent collective worship is central to the school day. It embodies the school's vision and associated values, and makes an inspirational contribution to spiritual development. Pupils and staff deeply value the time for reflection and prayer. Pupils make purposeful links between the themes of worship and implications for their own lives and behaviour. As one pupil explained, 'I learned to have courage when facing difficult situations from thinking about the story of David and Goliath'. Pupils express a clear understanding of the teachings of Jesus. Adults express worship as a time where the large community is 'fully connected, focused on the Christian heart of the school'. They share many examples of the positive impact of worship on individuals' lives, including enriching them as adults. Worship is strongly supported by the vicar who leads collective worship each week. He makes a significant



contribution to the promotion and living out of the Christian vision in action across the school community. The church is used regularly to celebrate key Christian festivals. The involvement of leaders from Brighton and Hove City Mission and the local 'Off the Fence' charity ensures a variety of worship styles. This helps pupils understand the breadth within the church. The collective worship leader works with the vicar and pupil faith council to plan, review and evaluate worship. Song and prayer are deeply meaningful for pupils who explain these are joyful and peaceful moments within worship.

Pupils speak courageously about their leadership roles in school. This is seen through the eco council. Pupils articulate clearly the links between Christian teachings and the actions of individuals in response to global issues. They are proud of their own actions, describing how a beach clean-up and the creation of eco-art using recycled materials has helped make the world a better place. Pupils across the school are inspired through many and varied charitable links. The 'Donate a day' initiative resulted in classes linking with local charities which included support for the homeless, people with disability, and Brighton foodbanks. These community partnerships are an outreaching expression of the vision.

Strong leadership of RE has ensured sequential curriculum planning. RE has high priority within the school and pupils enjoy and value the subject. Pupils gain a good understanding of Christianity and are able to link core concepts such as salvation and forgiveness. The study of worldviews and faiths encourages respect and appreciation of diversity. Pupils explore questions such as 'How did Buddha teach his followers to find enlightenment?' which fosters a sense of curiosity. However, they do not talk in depth about a range of religions and worldviews, and do not make links between their learning over time. Staff are very well supported by the leaders of RE. Effective monitoring and evaluation ensures that the impact of teaching is understood, informing next steps in teaching. Professional development provided by the diocese also makes a valuable contribution.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	St Andrew's has established a clear curriculum plan for RE. The overall quality of teaching and learning in RE is good. There are examples of high quality teaching. Pupils make good progress against expected standards. They develop a very good understanding of Christianity. Vulnerable groups, such as those with SEND, are well supported to make progress in RE. An effective system is in place to allow leaders to monitor and evaluate the subject effectively.			
Information				
School	St Andrews Church of England Primary School, Hove	Inspection date	15 May 2023	
URN	114556	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Chichester	Pupils on roll	640	
Headteacher	Sophie Thomas			
Chair of Governors	Fran Beckett			
Inspector	Susan Costa	No.	902	