



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Peter and St Paul Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Buckhurst Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1QE

School vision
<p>Learn, love, live in the light of the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inclusive community where Christian values are evident in all we do. • A learning community where children and adults are nurtured and challenged to achieve the highest levels academically, creatively, personally, morally and spiritually. • A school where children are equipped with the skills, attitudes and values to embrace their future lives and the global family with confidence. • A school which is a beacon of learning within our community. <p>'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision of the school is central to all areas of school life. It drives the strategic direction of the school and is integral in all decision making. • The curriculum and extensive extra-curricular provision are driven by the school's vision to offer life in all its fullness. This supports all pupils, in a variety of different ways, to be the best they can be. • A strong inward culture, where each individual is known and cared for, enables all to live well together. There is a demonstrable atmosphere of encouragement and compassion which supports children, staff and families to flourish. • Collective worship gives pupils and adults a safe place and a precious moment each day to pause, reflect and be still. This supports children's and adults' understanding of the school's Christian vision and values and its relevance to their lives. • Religious education (RE) is exceptionally well led which leads to impressive outcomes for pupils. Effective assessment strategies underpin pupils' progress in their studies and ensure that they are challenged effectively in their learning.
Area for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine the current ways of experiencing and articulating spirituality in school into a coherent and shared approach to spiritual development. This is so that staff, children and governors develop a consistent language and support rich planning opportunities across the curriculum.

Inspection findings

St Peter and St Paul shines as a beacon of light within its community. The school's Christian vision relentlessly drives school improvement, underpinning every aspect of daily school life. It is central to conversations, inspiring a consistent focus on providing the best for every individual. This inclusive and nurturing school takes great pride in supporting children and adults in being the best they can be. Each person is valued as a unique individual with different talents, skills and aspirations. As a result, pupils progress and develop well from their unique starting point. The commitment to offer 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) is at the heart of this caring community. The values of honesty, respect, teamwork, love and kindness underpin everything. Pupils and adults use them as a guide and describe these values as 'the five secrets for living a good life'. A range of effective partnerships significantly enhances school life. The commitment to the vision has led to lasting transformation for pupils, adults and families.

Spurred on by the Christian vision, the school is a learning community where children and adults are nurtured and challenged. This enables them to achieve very well, creatively, personally and morally. The school is a place where children are equipped with the skills, attitudes and values that they will need in their future lives. Staff feel part of 'an endless pursuit to provide meaningful experiences for the children.' High aspirations and expectations are a shared commitment. The school is used to resource and support other schools in their diocese. Spiritual moments are woven into the everyday, and these make the most of awe and wonder moments as they arise. However, this has not been developed into a shared and coherent understanding of spiritual development across the life of the school.

Collective worship is a special time when the whole school comes together. One pupil explained that, when they go to worship, 'the hall becomes our church and we're a family together.' Teachings from the Bible inspire all to reflect and consider their own response. For example, the prodigal son shows that 'even if you do something wrong, God loves and cares for you.' Adults describe collective worship as the rhythm that their week is set around. They express the benefit they feel from being able to stop, be still and reset. Parents enjoy being welcomed into school regularly to share in the worshipping life of the school. Through moments of prayer and reflection, pupils are inspired to consider their behaviour within school. The team of pupil leaders enjoy the responsibility of supporting the worshipping experience of the school. Members of clergy from the local group of churches make a significant contribution to the spiritual life of the school. They regularly lead worship, offer first communion classes and eucharist services during the year. Prayer spaces enhance the opportunities for further reflection on collective worship themes during the school day.

This school community is a place where everyone lives well together. Pupils, adults and families are surrounded by loving relationships which create a powerful sense of belonging. The consistent compassion and care shown to parents creates a welcoming environment. This helps to generate a great sense of trust in the school to provide the very best for their child. As a result of this, the school is exceptionally well-regarded in the community. Pupils are encouraged and given permission to take ownership of the school. Senior leaders reflect that the school belongs to the pupils and that they lead it with them. A wide range of leadership roles are available to pupils, which are driven by the desire for them to be role models. Pupils are taught how to be good citizens. They are rewarded with citizenship awards for living out the school values. Staff feel that their wellbeing is prioritised and describe the school as a 'net that will catch you'.

Pupils take great pride in representing their school in their local community. Each year, pupils nominate and vote on a local, national or global school charity for each class to support. They take part in activities to raise money, learning about the work of the charity along the way. A 'life in all its fullness week' each year enhances this and gives pupils further opportunities to think beyond themselves. Pupils consider how they can have a positive impact on their local community and then

they act on these ideas. The school engages in activities such as visiting residential homes which build intergenerational relationships. Recently, the school council had the opportunity to meet their local councillor. Pupils demonstrated a shared responsibility by asking challenging questions about the issues they see around them in Bexhill. One example was asking for Egerton Park to be repaired. Pupils felt empowered by the council taking action. As a result of these opportunities, pupils' confidence grows as they realise that their voice and actions can affect change. There is a good balance of shared and individual initiatives, led by both adults and pupils. Through this, pupils feel that the community and world can be a better place through their individual and collective efforts.

RE has a high status in the school and is led well with generous resourcing. It is valued by staff and pupils alike. The carefully planned RE curriculum is appropriately sequenced and balanced. Big questions encourage pupils to think deeply and reflect. The curriculum has been adapted to suit the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Working alongside the RE leaders, staff are fully supported in their teaching. This partnership generates inspiring lessons, sparking pupils' enthusiasm and enjoyment in discussion. They listen readily to each other, recognising that the classroom is a safe place for expressing their own ideas and thoughts. Difference is celebrated, with one child reflecting that 'we want a mix, not a match here.' Pupils are encouraged to respond in a range of imaginative ways, including through art and drama. They can confidently recall knowledge gleaned from lessons using accurate religious vocabulary. The use of the resource 'Godly Play' has a positive impact on pupils' learning in RE. Through the study of a range of religions and other worldviews, pupils are growing as global citizens. Effective assessment and teacher feedback help pupils to know how to improve, extend their thinking and also celebrate their success. Consequently, pupils flourish in RE.

The inspection findings indicate that St Peter and St Paul Church of England VA Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
School	St Peter and St Paul Church of England VA Primary School	Inspection date	14.6.24
URN	114564	VC/VA/Academy	VA
Diocese/District	Chichester	Pupils on roll	421
MAT/Federation	N/A		
Headteacher	Angela Hamill		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Ruth Elias		
Inspector	Natalie Ralph	No.	CR 23.24