

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Primary School

Vision

'Live life to the full' (from "That they shall have life, life in all its fullness" (John 10:10).

Mission: 'educate the heart, mind, body, and soul'.

St John's Church of England School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The theologically rooted Christian vision and values clearly underpin life at St John's. This supports pupils and adults to flourish.
- Within the school, there is a clear culture of well-being. The school invests in its staff and this leads to pupils being empowered to live life in all its fullness.
- In religious education (RE) provision is well balanced, diverse and relevant. As a result of high quality teaching pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are engaged and excited by their learning.
- Governors are robust in their monitoring and evaluation of the vision within the school. This guides leaders with the strategic development of the school ensuring the Christian character continues to be enhanced and embedded.

Development Points

- Create more opportunities for spiritual development within the school day. This is to deepen the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.
- Broaden the opportunities for pupils to take the initiative in activities which enable them to independently act for justice. This is to develop pupils' sense of responsibility in bringing about change.



Inspection Findings

St John's is a very welcoming school. The Christian vision and values are firmly embedded and at the heart of all it does. The pupils' clear understanding of the vision encourages them to 'live life in all its fullness'. A positive atmosphere, with a strong sense of teamwork, is evident throughout the school community. The Christian environment enables pupils and adults to flourish, giving them a sense of worth. Pupils and their families are equipped with tools to help them to navigate life. They confidently explain the way in which the vision helps them throughout their time at school. Governors cultivate a good balance of challenge and support for leaders in a manner which reflects the distinctive Christian ethos. The effective partnership between leaders brings about a culture where staff can live life in all its fullness. The school's Christian vision guides policies and decisions, reflecting the holistic approach of the school.

The school's mission to 'educate the heart, mind, body, and soul' is reflected throughout the curriculum. Pupils enjoy a range of extra-curricular activities, which provide exciting opportunities to experience life in all its fullness. Themed days enthuse pupils, enabling them to flourish spiritually and physically. These experiences are enhanced by strong community links, such as the local forest centre, which brings the pupils' learning alive. Pupils who have SEND are fully included in school life. Each pupil is recognised as a unique individual, with personalised support and tools in place to thrive. The organisation of some subjects creates natural opportunities for cross curricular links, for example through religious art. This helps to develop spiritual flourishing. However, these occasions are somewhat limited.

Collective worship is a welcoming and inclusive time, where pupils and staff come together for prayer and reflection. Through music, stillness and quiet moments pupils are given meaningful opportunities to nurture their spiritual development. Strong partnerships with the parish church result in a well-planned programme of worship, offering opportunities for pupils to flourish spiritually. The school makes effective use of St John the Evangelist church as a valuable resource, providing regular times for reflection. Having a contrasting environment enhances opportunities for spiritual development. The school community comes together here to celebrate key events within the Christian calendar, such as Christmas and Easter. This deepens the pupils' understanding of Christian festivals. Class prayer areas are accessible for all. These offer space for quiet contemplation, nurturing pupils' sense of inner awareness. Pupils enjoy contributing prayers to their class prayer books, which are regularly shared with the wider school community. This gives pupils of all ages opportunities to take an active lead in worship. Christian symbols, including pupils' religious models are displayed throughout the school. These serve as daily reminders of the school's vision.

At St John's, pupils and adults are respected and treated well. This is as a result of the vision guiding leaders to create an environment where people are heard and valued. School leaders effectively nurture pupils and adults to live life in all its fullness. They are relentless in their drive to access a wide range of external agencies to help those in need. The school's 'open door policy' is welcomed by parents and families. It ensures that parents feel listened to and valued, creating a relationship of mutual trust. Adults and pupils are celebrated for their uniqueness. Through the vision, leaders have created a culture which invests in the whole person. Staff have a good support network and as a result, staff morale is high.

The way the Christian vision is modelled by adults inspires pupils to act with kindness and understanding. They actively contribute to living the school's vision through undertaking a range of leadership and pastoral



responsibilities, such as librarians and play leaders. They serve one another proudly as buddies, acting as good role models, living the vision for younger pupils. They embrace opportunities to be active agents of change and show good understanding of how their actions impact on the lives of others. For example, pupils understand how their book donations positively affect the lives of others. The Christian vision inspires the school to make important partnerships and offer help to those in need. One such example is the school's partnership with a local care home, where pupil interaction makes a positive impact on the lives of the residents. This gives them the opportunity to make a difference. Links are made with the teachings of the church, for example the Easter story. This gives pupils time to reflect on aspects of justice within the curriculum. However, opportunities for pupils to take the lead in acting for justice are somewhat limited.

The school offers an engaging and well-balanced RE curriculum. RE has a high profile and skilful timetabling enables others to benefit from the RE leader's expertise. Teacher's good subject knowledge and meaningful cross curricular links help pupils to see RE in a broader context. The RE curriculum is challenging and effectively resourced. This encourages pupils to have high aspirations for themselves. Probing questioning offers pupils opportunities to develop higher level thinking skills, reflecting the school's vision to develop the pupils' minds. They are able to build on prior learning. For example when revisiting the story of the Lost Sheep, pupils were able to show a deeper understanding of parables and the messages they give.

As a result of high quality RE, pupils develop an excellent understanding of Christianity and other world religions. Visitors to the school reinforce this by sharing their knowledge and experiences of different faiths. Pupils are able to make meaningful links between world religions, including Christianity. They confidently use accurate terms to express their understanding of 'belonging' across different religions. They are excited about their RE learning, which is creative and engaging. Inspirational teaching styles ensure the subject is accessible and inclusive for pupils. Year 4's creation story videos are an example of how the school's vision drives the learning. Effective monitoring and evaluation of RE makes sure that it meets the needs of pupils, enabling progress.

Information

Address	School Lane, East Sussex TN6 1SD		
Date	7 July 2025	URN	114549
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	205
Diocese and Methodist District	Chichester		
Headteacher	Laura Cooper		
Chair of Governors	Phil Morris		
Inspector	Sarah Wickens		