

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

<b>Wembdon St George's Church School</b>	
Address	Brantwood Road, Wembdon, TA6 7PS
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>Shining Together To Be The Best We Can Be For God And For Each Other</p> <p>'You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house'</p> <p>Matthew 5:14-16</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inspirational leadership of the headteacher, has created a culture of compassionate care and encouragement. This lives out the school's distinctive Christian vision enabling all to flourish.</li> <li>• The strong partnership between the school, diocese and Bath and Wells multi-academy trust (MAT) has created a vibrant learning community. In particular it has promoted a love of religious education (RE) reflecting the school's Christian vision and providing opportunities to thrive.</li> <li>• The church community's constant support for the life of the school, particularly in worship, has a powerful impact in strengthening the vision. However, pupils' roles in planning and leading collective worship are underdeveloped.</li> <li>• The vision promotes a strong culture of equality, inclusion and diversity. However, issues of inequality and injustice are not explicitly raised within the curriculum. Consequently, pupils do not feel motivated by the vision to make a tangible difference by engaging in social action projects.</li> <li>• Leaders have developed a definition of spirituality. The way this impacts on spiritual flourishing is underdeveloped as the definition is not widely understood by all.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship independently on a regular basis in order to increase their spiritual development.</li> <li>• Ensure that staff have a clear shared understanding of spirituality. Plan and provide equally rich opportunities for its development across the curriculum for all age groups.</li> <li>• Raise the profile of global issues of inequality and injustice in the curriculum so that pupils feel inspired to act as agents of change.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

Wembdon St George's Christian vision is deeply rooted in its local church community. It is fully embedded in every aspect of daily life at school. The vision is driven by its historic partnership with the church community and is exceptionally well understood by all. The school's more recent links within the diocesan multi academy trust (MAT) has a significant impact. Pupils describe with passion and animation how 'shining together' affects their learning and behaviour. The dynamic headteacher appointed, over the last two years, has raised the impact of the vision. As a result, in a short time, standards have increased considerably. Leaders have the highest aspirations for their pupils. Priority is given to increasing the central role of collective worship and quality of RE. Up to date continuing professional development is provided for all staff. In this way, they feel highly valued as individuals and as a team. The vision is monitored very well by the ethos committee and by leaders within the MAT. As a result, areas for development have been identified with subsequent positive outcomes. The partnership with the church is a constant strength and support to the school. This was particularly evident throughout the past period of leadership instability prior to the headteacher's appointment. The contributions of the vicar and members of the church community, including governors, to the life of the school has a powerful impact. Their support includes a weekly lunchtime 'Praisemakers' club in which pupils benefit from special time interacting with caring adults. Parents value their close partnership with staff and describe the school as 'like a small village community'.

The school's creative curriculum is an expression of its vision enabling all to 'shine' and flourish. Teaching is inspiring, engaging and fully focussed on meeting the needs of all pupils. Consequently, pupils enjoy their learning and highly value their time at school. The headteacher and school leaders make bold decisions with the curriculum. As a result, the potential of pupils deemed to be disadvantaged and those with additional and behavioural needs is transformed. This is because they are extremely well supported in line with the school's vision. This is a tangible area of glowing improvement. Over the last few years, leaders have created a culture of high expectation and aspiration in line with the vision. Opportunities exist in the curriculum for pupils to reflect on their behaviour and learning. Staff are developing a shared understanding of spiritual development. However, there is not a structured plan in place to develop spiritual and ethical awareness across the curriculum. Big questions about life are used well, particularly in RE. Themes in worship promote a developing understanding of the wider world. Nevertheless, there is not sufficient focus on specific questions which would develop pupils' understanding of disadvantage and deprivation. Consequently, pupils do not feel motivated to engage in social action projects which would challenge injustice and inequality.

The school's aspirational Christian vision motivates and encourages pupils to learn well. The curriculum challenges pupils to be the best they can be. Pupils felt well supported in their learning during the pandemic. Difference and diversity are welcomed and celebrated in this inclusive, accepting community. Pupils show a high level of respect for their peers and a strong sense of equality. They benefit from a very wide range of opportunities for creative play across the age groups. Extensive opportunities for supportive leadership roles enhance values of service and friendship. Pupils are pro-active in their support for causes which unite their vision and values such as compassion for the 'Children in Need' appeal. Strategies for promoting pupils' wellbeing are very effective, raising their understanding of their feelings and those of their peers. Disagreements are resolved in a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation. Healthy relationships are promoted very well by the school's relationships and sex education which reflects the vision. Leaders create a culture where all are supported by

encouragement and compassionate care. As a result staff morale is high.

Collective worship is central to daily life at Wembdon St George's. The vision creates a culture of a community which recognises the importance of being together and sharing love. Pupils are actively engaged and participate fully in worship. They enthusiastically offer prayers and lead other aspects of worship. Older pupils are supported by adults to plan and lead worship in different settings. Outcomes of monitoring by the ethos committee have identified pupils' desire to become more independent in these roles. Anglican practice is embedded by formal greetings and responses such as for lighting the candle, representing the light of Christ. An understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is underdeveloped. This is because no reference is included during worship. Themes root the school's values in biblical stories, such as the way compassion is shown by the Good Samaritan. They also deepen an understanding of Christian teaching and the church year. The vicar and members of the church community provide good support for worship. Christian festivals are celebrated in church with families present and are memorable occasions. Class-based reflective spaces are used well by pupils. Times of quiet reflection and prayer in worship contrast very effectively with joyous singing. In this way, collective worship promotes spiritual development well.

Religious education is an engaging and inspiring core subject at Wembdon St George's. Pupils understand that it reflects the school's vision promoting respect and diversity. The curriculum is well planned using an effective balance in line with Church school education requirements. Staff planning is supported very well by the RE subject leader. She uses training from the MAT and diocese very effectively to embed schemes of work throughout the school. As a result, very effective systems have been established for teachers to understand and implement pupils' next steps in learning. Pupils enjoy RE because teaching is challenging and motivating. They show pride in their learning evident particularly in their whole class RE floor books. Pupils have a good understanding of Christianity as a living and diverse faith. A recent inter-faith day has enhanced pupils' good levels of interest and respectful understanding of a range of faiths.

Information			
School	Wembdon St George's Church School	Inspection date	18 November 2022
URN	144984	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Bath & Wells	Pupils on roll	329
MAT/Federation	BWMAT (Taunton Hub)		
Headteacher	Clare Wallace		
Chair of Governors	Ceri Douglass		
Inspector	Daphne Spitzer	No.	37