

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Kingston St Mary Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Kingston St Mary, Taunton, TA2 8JH

School vision
Our vision is for every child to achieve their emotional, physical and academic potential with an understanding of how to be good citizens of the wider world. ‘I came so that they could have life – indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest’ John 10:10
School strengths
• The school’s theologically rooted Christian vision drives all that it does, enabling all to flourish and achieve their full potential. • This school welcomes all and personalises its responses to the needs of vulnerable pupils in order to enable them to succeed. • Pupil voice makes an important contribution to the daily life of the school and through this, pupils are well prepared to become caring members of society in the future. • Religious education (RE) and collective worship are both inspirational, challenging and enjoyed. Their impact on pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is evident.
Areas for development
• Strengthen the monitoring of the school by leaders and governors in order that they can further challenge and support the school’s church distinctiveness. • Develop further opportunities for prayer and reflection in the everyday life of the school in order to support pupils to develop their personal spirituality.

Inspection findings

Pupils and adults are proud to belong to Kingston St Mary Primary School. They understand the school's Christian vision and the core values of kindness, respect, responsibility, and resilience. The vision drives all that the school does and underpins everyday life enabling all to flourish. Everyone realises that they have a role to play in creating the welcoming and calm atmosphere of the school. Leaders are ambitious for the school and passionate about it living its Christian vision. However, governors do not robustly monitor this school as a Church school to ensure progress. Despite this, pupils are respectful, self-assured young people, confident that staff are always there for them caring, supporting and challenging. 'This is the best place ever!'

The construction of the whole school curriculum offers every child the opportunity to succeed. Pupils are known by all staff and cherished as individuals in line with the school's Christian vision for everyone to enjoy life in its fullness. The school ensures that a range of interventions and personalised programmes are in place to support individual needs. These are all carefully monitored to ensure that they are successful in supporting all pupils to progress. Extensive school grounds offer opportunities for outdoor learning and encourage spiritual development. This extended curriculum includes pond dipping, sketching and gardening. Supported by volunteers from the local community, pupils grow vegetables, then cook and eat them. These experiences provide opportunities to learn about and experience God's world. Moments of awe and wonder abound as pupils listen to the natural world around them. The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities run by staff, volunteers and pupils, to extend the range of learning experiences on offer. Inspired by the school's vision, older pupils lead activities for younger pupils, such as lunchtime games. They also enjoy caring for them at playtimes and when walking through the village to church and at home. This demonstrates how the vision is having a positive impact upon pupils' daily lives beyond the school boundaries.

Daily collective worship is important to this school and is carefully planned around a rolling programme of Christian values. Pupils appreciate and value this time of coming together to be still and to learn about Jesus and God. After hearing the parable of the lost lamb, pupils understand that Christians believe that every individual matters to God. Opportunities for pupils to develop their personal spirituality exist as pupils sing hymns with gusto and respectfully reflect or say prayers. Collective worship is thought provoking and enables pupils to draw links with their learning from religious education (RE) lessons. 'When God gave Jeremiah perseverance, was that God the Holy Spirit?' Collective worship invites everyone to participate and is enjoyed by all. The local vicar is a regular visitor to the school to lead worship. Working with local parishioners, the whole school visits the church to worship together at major Christian festivals and events such as Harvest. This gives an opportunity for the village and school communities to come together. Pupils lead collective worship for friends and families, both in school and at church. They plan and deliver worship based on their current value or biblical theme. Here pupils have the opportunity to voice their own thoughts about the world and issues that concern them. The village supports the school and pupils participate in village activities such as dancing at the village fete. This demonstrates the reciprocal relationship between school and village community.

Driven by the Christian vision, a caring and nurturing culture permeates the school. Everyone matters. Relationships across the school are good between adults and pupils. Everyone cares about each other demonstrating the school's core values in action. Good mental health and wellbeing are important to school leaders. Staff workloads are carefully monitored and managed. Planned into the curriculum are opportunities for pupils to be still and centre their thoughts and emotions. They participate in yoga, mindfulness and quiet times for reflection in the school grounds. In line with the vision, staff are always prepared to go the extra mile to support pupils and families where they find need. Staff are approachable and designated wrap around care before and after school is provided.

Parents appreciate this. As a result of the care they receive, families feel included in school life and are proud to send their children to this school.

As part of the school's vision for its pupils to flourish, adults aim to prepare pupils to be caring members of society in the future. Pupils recognise their responsibility to help others in need and actively support and lead events to do this. In school, participation in supporting international crises is encouraged, for example through donations to the Red Cross. Pupils also raise money for national charities such as Children in Need and give produce to a local homeless charity at harvest time. Inspired by presentations in collective worship, pupils also take their own ideas home and raise money with their families for charities through sponsored walks and produce sales. Pupil voice is strong at Kingston St Mary and pupils are given opportunities to hold posts of responsibility and improve their school and world.

The RE curriculum is inspired by the school's vision and is based upon the locally agreed syllabus. It is well-sequenced and cyclical in nature, supporting growth in knowledge and skills. RE is an important part of the school curriculum and is enjoyed and valued by staff and pupils. It covers a range of religions enabling Christianity to be seen as a world religion, broadening pupils' thinking. Lessons include much debate and reflection. Occasional whole days are dedicated to big questions such as 'Who are we?' On these days, pupils research and give presentations on topics such as diversity or peace. Pupils enjoy learning in RE and often continue discussions beyond the classroom.

The inspection findings indicate that Kingston St Mary Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	21 November 2023	URN	123795
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	97
Diocese	Bath & Wells		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Kim Greenslade		
Chair	Steve Meredith and Jenny Bishop		
Inspector	Alison Appleyard	No.	877