

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mark's Ecumenical Anglican / Methodist Primary School, Worle	
Address	St. Mark's Road, Worle, BS22 7PU
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	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>'Let Your Light Shine' Matthew 5:16 'In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' Our Vision Statement to 'Let Your Light Shine' reflects John Wesley's teaching, 'Do all the good you can.' Our Vision provides the foundation upon which children and staff develop as individuals and it inspires them to be the very best version of themselves.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The devoted headteacher guides a dynamic leadership team. They ensure that lights of goodness and understanding are ignited for all in this school community. Consequently, the lives of pupils and staff shine brightly as they are nurtured in love and trust. Partnerships within the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust (MAT) strengthen the school's capacity to fulfil its life-enhancing vision. The school shines as a beacon, generously sharing inspirational ways of being an effective Christian school. Opportunities to share the theological roots of its vision more widely within the local community are being created. The creative design of the curriculum ensures that a joy of teaching and the desire for lifelong learning are a powerful reality. As a result, teachers and pupils are free to be the best versions of themselves that they can be. Collective worship is a wonderful time of celebration and praise. Adults and pupils are fuelled to live well in harmony together as they pray and reflect on stories from the Bible. The school's revision of long-term planning impacts positively on pupils' understanding of a wider range of biblical accounts. Religious education (RE) of the highest quality equips pupils with an exceptional level of understanding about world faiths and beliefs. Pupils are well prepared for life in a diverse society.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen relationships with local Anglican and Methodist communities to further enrich the lives of pupils and adults. Ensure that there is a broader coverage of Bible stories in collective worship. This is to further enhance pupils' ability to make meaningful connections between their Christian values and the teachings of Jesus.

Inspection findings

An extraordinary explosion of light and love radiates from this school where everyone is valued and nurtured. The bold and apparent Christian vision enables everyone to shine confidently as their own unique talents and gifts are celebrated. There is an honesty and openness in relationships throughout the school which is liberating. A highly effective senior leadership team works closely with the headteacher. They are resolved to extend high levels of aspiration and wisdom throughout the school. Inspired by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, everyone 'watches over the other in love'. A great sense of trust and fulfilment motivates the staff to be the best that they can be for every child. In this harmonious atmosphere pupils feel safe, enjoy learning and want to give of their best. It is especially apparent in relation to excellent outcomes for pupils with additional needs. The manner of care for each pupil illuminates a Christ-like way of life and service. In turn, this is reflected in the considerate behaviour and attitudes of pupils. Pupils demonstrate that everyone has their own right to shine in their own special way by treating each other with respect and dignity. Five Christian values of hope, honesty, friendship, forgiveness and perseverance are well established. Pupils understand the spiritual depth of these values. For example, they talk about forgiveness in relation to the parable of The Prodigal Son and the words of The Lord's Prayer. The practices of forgiveness and reconciliation are life-changing as they result in peace of mind.

Deeply considered systems of shared leadership bring committed adults together to refine an ever-evolving and vibrant Christian education. Since September 2016, the school has been a valued member of the Bath and Wells Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). There is a shared passion between the school and the MAT for pupils to experience 'life in all its fullness'. This partnership is a source of profound mutual professional and personal support. School staff encourage and strengthen each other's teaching and subsequent learning by generously sharing resources, training and expertise. RE is led by an enthusiastic and highly- skilled leader. She learns from and supports other RE leaders across the MAT. Her enthusiasm for RE is contagious and she motivates staff so that teaching inspires highly successful learning. Pupils use religious language confidently and thoughtfully to convey their understanding of world faiths and beliefs.

The school's local governing committee, which includes local Church of England and Methodist clergy, is a powerhouse of excellence. It constantly drives the school forward as a distinctively Christian place of teaching and learning. Decisions are made prayerfully and wisely. It monitors and evaluates the school's theologically rooted Christian vision, and collective worship. Consequently, there is an increasingly deeper and wider impact on the spiritual life of the school family and local community. Through music especially, pupils encourage local church members in Sunday worship. There has not been a local Methodist worshipping community since 2012. Re-building relationships with members of the Methodist tradition is high priority for the school and church. The school and clergy from Church of England and Methodist churches resolve to continually develop new and creative ways of working together. By doing so, people recognise the source of the light and love which spontaneously inspires some to give glory to God.


The school holds steadfastly to its Christian foundations with school governors making bold decisions to establish school policies that underpin their convictions. For example, in developing an admissions policy that reflects their resolve that all are welcome at St Mark's because everyone is precious. Leaders boldly attribute this to the words of John Wesley that God's love is 'for all, for all'. The school is a wonderful blessing to the national Methodist Association of Schools and Trusts (MAST) and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. It is generous in sharing good practice to support other schools as they promote a distinctively Christian vision. The headteacher affirms and guides future church school leaders who move on to ignite lights of learning in other schools. A pupil whose life was transformed by being welcomed and accepted whole-heartedly into the St

Mark's family bears witness to this on a video. This appears on the home page of the Bath and Wells MAT. In such ways the light of Christ emanates from the school and brings goodness to others across the country.

The school is a lighthouse of hope and encouragement in the local community especially during difficult times. Leaders' relentless application of this during the pandemic was life enhancing. Online worship and reflection inspired pupils and families to let their lights keep shining. Their acts of kindness were numerous. The pupils' eagerness to look outwards and challenge injustice is praiseworthy. The curriculum targets a real appreciation of life beyond the school through visits to places of religious and cultural diversity. Pupils consider current issues such as climate change deeply and are driven by compassion to protect and care for God's world. The awe-inspiring curriculum and atmosphere of the school are driven by the vision to direct light outwards, inwards and upwards. This wonderful school provides 'wow' moments in planned schemes of work but also gives freedom to staff and pupils for spontaneous moments of wonder, prayer and questioning. Time is made available to ponder big questions and ethical responses to all areas of the curriculum. Spaces for reflection fuel personal spiritual and religious exploration and growth. Pupils express how prayer is important to them outside of school especially when they face sad and disappointing times. The impact of this mirrors John Wesley's words as, through prayer, 'hearts are strangely warmed.'

Collective worship is a cherished time in the school day which provides spiritual fuel to keep lights shining brightly. Joyful, enthusiastic and prayerful singing gives glory and thanks to God. The experience of collective worship is profoundly deepened as the whole school community signs the words. Spoken responses and prayers from the Anglican and Methodist traditions offer pupils an understanding of the language of faith. The pupils' experience of worship is enriched when it is led by members of different Christian faith traditions. Pupils remember Bible stories which have been brought to life by the 'Open the Book' worship team from the parish church. The school is revising its long-term plan for collective worship to strengthen pupils' understanding of Jesus' life and teachings.

Drawn together in love, this school family is a beacon of justice and joy shining for God's glory.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent
	<p>Highly motivated and skilful teachers of RE inspire learning of the highest quality. Pupils follow a carefully considered curriculum which engenders a deep understanding of Christianity. Pupils use appropriate religious language confidently to talk enthusiastically and knowledgeably about major world faiths and beliefs. A culture of curiosity and questioning supports strong moral and spiritual development. Robust monitoring processes ensure that all pupils, including those who have additional needs, make exceptional progress.</p>		
Information			
School	St Mark's Ecumenical Anglican/ Methodist Primary School, Worle	Inspection date	9 November 2022
URN	143100	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Bath & Wells	Pupils on roll	417
MAT/Federation	BWMAT		
Headteacher	Helen Bath		
Chair of Governors	Caroline Matthews		
Inspector	Angela Daniel	No.	757