

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

<b>Ashleworth Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	The Green, Ashleworth, GL19 4HT
School vision	
<p>Respected and nurtured for uniqueness. Romans 12:6 Romans 12 reminds us that we are all God's creation, but everyone is different; everyone is unique. We all have different talents and abilities according to the gifts given to us by God. Our school community provides the nurturing environment for everyone to thrive and develop these gifts.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective leadership and supportive governors have created a vibrant, unique learning environment with its theologically rooted Christian vision at its heart. All members of the community know and live by the vision and this enables all to flourish.</li> <li>• The school's Christian vision provides an exceptional culture of care and compassion in which barriers to learning are overcome. This enables all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or who are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged to succeed.</li> <li>• Pupils learn about spirituality in worship, through religious education (RE) and a range of lessons. The terms 'ows, nows and wows', are confidently used by all community members to describe spiritual feelings. Pupils deepen their spiritual awareness through curiosity and questioning.</li> <li>• Pupils understand how to apply the school's Christian vision responsibly and justly to make positive changes. Consequently, they actively and confidently engage in charitable action and support within the community.</li> <li>• RE is effectively led and well taught. It provides a safe space to explore beliefs and what it means to live in a diverse world. RE programmes of learning are regularly reviewed to ensure they are challenging and tailored to the needs of the pupils.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the monitoring of the impact of the school's vision upon all subjects. This will enable Ashleworth's journey as a Church school to continue to develop holistically.</li> <li>• Continue to engage pupils in developing the environment so that their opportunities for reflection, prayer, and personal spiritual growth are enhanced.</li> <li>• Enable pupils to extend their charitable work beyond the local community to deepen their understanding of challenging inequality and injustice including globally.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>Leaders and staff are proud that Ashleworth's theologically rooted Christian vision is at the heart of their very special school. The vision's impact and associated Christian values ensure that each pupil knows that they are unique and have special gifts given by God. Carefully planned daily activities and worship, tailored to each pupil's needs, means that everyone is nurtured. Pupils learn respect for each other no matter their background, cultural heritage, or beliefs.</p>	



Consequently, pupil relationships across the year groups are strong and behaviour is good. The school's vision 'respected and nurtured for uniqueness' is known and articulated by all in school. Pupils confidently express how they thrive and do well at school because they are encouraged to use their talents and gifts. Governors who maintain a close relationship with the school ensure the vision impacts on daily life at school. However, there is inconsistency in the monitoring of the vision in some curriculum areas.

Personalised learning that is supported by a programme of additional activities, responds to the ambitions of the school's vision. Adults nurture each pupil, harnessing their gifts and talents and responding to their needs. This leads to pupils flourishing, no matter of their starting points. In this close-knit environment, staff work together as a family. Pupils say they enjoy school because adults know and value them. They are confident in their abilities and staff help move them forward in their learning journey. Early intervention coupled with bold decisions using additional funding means gaps in learning for are swiftly tackled. Consequently, all pupils thrive, including SEND, vulnerable and/or disadvantaged pupils. Curiosity and asking questions is encouraged in order to expand their thoughts. Pupils like the challenge to think beyond themselves. Spiritual development, although not explicitly planned, is expressed, and clearly articulated by pupils, staff, parents, and carers. The use of reflection diaries in class helps pupils to express their thoughts in words or pictures. However, spaces around the school that nurture reflection, stillness and prayer are underdeveloped.

Collective worship is driven by the essence of the vision through carefully selected themes and values that focus on uniqueness and respect. All pupils and staff are invited to worship daily and feel they can express their faith. Those with no religious affiliation, join in and enjoy worship times. Parents say it gives a 'lovely feeling of togetherness.' Inclusive worship is enhanced by carefully selected resources which prepares pupils for living in a diverse modern world. The Open the Book team create unique videos with key Bible messages enabling pupils to experience a range of worship styles. Worship often inspires pupils to think about their actions towards others. Conscientiously chosen scripture passages encourage an understanding that everyone deserves to be respected. Therefore, new pupils settle easily into the school. Pupils lead worship alongside adults. They light three candles, open with a message about the value, linked to their Christian vision and close with the Lord's Prayer. Pupils have a clear understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God. Links with the local church is beneficial and brings joy to families with shared services such as Harvest Festival and Coronation celebrations. This results in strong mutually respectful and enriching relationships. Diocesan support has enabled staff to become confident in providing opportunities for spiritual growth within worship. Worship evaluations show pupils can reflect upon themes and express personal feeling through prayer.

Leaders make a significant impact on the school's culture by encouraging staff to weave the school's vision through day-to-day activities. Each school member's unique qualities are respected and nurtured. Systems in place to cater for pupils' diverse educational needs enable personalised learning. Parents explain how bespoke external support for emotional development has been transformational. Impact from these interventions can be seen in the calm behaviour and kindness shown between pupils. Forgiveness is a common value shared by all and fresh starts to each day a part of Ashleworth's promise to pupils and parents. Bailey the school dog is used when anxious children need extra support to settle. Families say this has improved attendance and enjoyment for all. The vision sculps decisions specifically for the needs of pupils, leading to parents fully trusting staff recommendations for their children. Parents feel listened to and home/school communication is excellent. Community members speak of the school as a 'serving school', where the vision and values stimulates joint projects. Benefice Intergenerational Gathering (BIG) events, where different churches and all ages of people come together, benefit the community. Pupils welcome these times when they can make others happy by singing or joining in with older residents.

The culture of nurturing and respecting all from the embedded vision leads to valuing responsibility towards others. Local community charity work is given high status. Pupils and

families support the nearby foodbank, Gloucester Bundles, and a range of local charities. They learn that they can have a positive impact on the lives of others through support and giving. Leaders ensure the curriculum enables pupils to learn about communities around the world. They are taught about the rights of individuals and justice. Pupils use this knowledge and often want to make sure people and further afield are treated well. This leads to actions such as supporting earthquake victims in Turkey and toilet twinning projects abroad. However, they are not fully confident in challenging inequality and injustice internationally without adult support.

RE expresses the school vision by ensuring pupils meaningfully respect diversity of faith, belief and viewpoints. Lessons encourage everyone to put forward their ideas and everyone's views are respected. Pupils say RE gives them confidence and prepares them for their move to secondary school. The headteacher and subject leader ensure that RE remains high priority and a valued subject. Supplemented by resources that cover theology, philosophy and human science, the curriculum responds to the context of the school. Careful consideration is taken to ensure each child has access to RE lessons that build upon previous knowledge. There is depth and challenge so pupils find learning motivating. Staff training from Gloucester Diocese develops teachers' expertise. This results in RE teaching that stimulates learners. Engaging approaches, such as hot seating visitors or using film, increases pupils' understanding of the key messages within Bible stories. Pupils at Ashleworth flourish in RE.

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

Information			
Inspection date	20 September 2023	URN	115663
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	17
Diocese	Gloucester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Michelle Kelly		
Chair	Bridgette Nulty		
Inspector	Carol Dougill	No.	2116