

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England (VA) Primary School

Vision

We aspire to grow and flourish, live out the 'Fruit of the Spirit' in our daily lives and go out beyond school into the world, making a positive impact and contribution. The 'Fruit of the Spirit' values are: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control (Galatians 5: 22-23).

St John's CE Primary 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 Christian vision and values are an inspiration to pupils, staff and the community. They are seamlessly threaded through school life. Consequently, pupils are empowered to understand their responsibility towards themselves and others.
- Relationships within the school are supportive and harmonious. Staff feel appreciated and encouraged, being part of a solid team, where much is achieved. Pupils flourish because of this fervent commitment.
- The strong partnership with the local church enhances the spiritual development of pupils and adults in the school. They work together in a mutually beneficial way.
- Inclusivity is central to the work of the school. Pupils and staff are cherished. As a result, they are able to succeed and thrive in a range of ways. Pupils with differing needs, including those who have special educational needs and disability (SEND) are understood and nurtured compassionately.
- The effective and knowledgeable leadership of the religious education (RE) curriculum impacts the deep questioning and reflectiveness of pupils. The curriculum is well-crafted with a balance of Christianity, major world religions and worldviews.

Development Points

- Develop the structure and content of daily collective worship so that it reflects more fully the school's Church of England status. This is to enable pupils and adults to develop spiritually as they reflect more fully on the teachings and characters of the Bible.
- Further develop how to identify and communicate spirituality throughout different subject areas of the curriculum. This is so pupils and adults reflect clearly on their spiritual response to themselves, others, the world and God.



Inspection Findings

School leaders passionately live and breathe the Christian vision of love at St John's. They inspire pupils and adults to make positive contributions to the wider community and beyond. The 'Fruit of the Spirit' values are well-known, guiding pupils and staff to serve others in relationships and local projects. The Christian ethos impacts pupils' lives and continues after they have moved on, giving them a firm foundation for the future. This is shown by the strong connection and involvement with families, past and present, within the school community. Diversity is a strength of the school. Pupils from different backgrounds and faiths share their experiences, learning about each other's cultures and practices. This widens their life perspectives. Parents appreciate St John's because of its emphasis on Christian values and its inclusive nature. The vision influences leaders' decisions and actions. For example, the new sensory room provides a safe space, helping to meet the differing needs of pupils. Governors regularly monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision on the school community resulting in informed strategic decisions. This enables spiritual flourishing of both pupils and adults.

The curriculum offer is engaging, providing exciting opportunities for pupils, enriching their learning. Visits and visitors, linked to learning, motivate pupils. Meeting famous athletes inspires pupils to develop a growth mindset, displaying 'fruit' such as self-control, patience and faithfulness. Learning to improve skills and how to deal with mistakes positively is part of pupils' educational journey. They are intrigued by learning. As a result, pupils are aspirational, having ambitious goals for life. Pupils enjoy participating in extra-curricular activities, including chess club, coding club, arts' clubs and sports activities. These opportunities enable pupils to thrive. When pupils struggle with their learning, additional help is provided, including support from outside agencies. Those who are vulnerable or have SEND are integrated into school life and given opportunities, helping them to succeed. 'Staff make my child feel seen and heard', a parent commented, acknowledging the impact of the school values. The understanding of spirituality across the curriculum is developing. Pupils identify individual challenging and light-bulb moments during the week, recorded in their reflective logs. Adults mostly link spirituality to an experience of awe and wonder. However, they do not fully understand what school means by spiritual development. Consequently, pupils are not given enough planned times to reflect on how their learning affects others and the world around them.

Relationships around school are positive, showing that adults and pupils are treated well. The school values are intrinsic to what goes on in the school, resulting in them being 'woven in and not boxed'. Staff take time to listen to pupils and parents, and to each other. Connections between families are so strong that past pupils and parents often visit school or volunteer to help with events. This shows the vision positively impacting St John's families beyond their time at the school. Pupils are so conversant with the school vision, that it affects their personal attitudes. They resolve conflicts confidently themselves and remind each other about the school values. The approach to behaviour stems from the promotion of the school's Christian values. This results in staff showing patience, goodness and love when dealing with positive and challenging behaviours. Staff have a flexible approach to their roles and go above and beyond their duties to encourage pupils. This enables pupils to flourish in school and during extra-curricular activities, wraparound care, holiday clubs and weekend events. Staff enjoy working together and support each other generously. They have chances to develop in their careers and their wellbeing is considered carefully by leaders, thus living out the vision.

Collective worship planning is based on the school values, drawing on inspirational people, world issues and personal development as the main content. Reference to Old Testament characters and the life and teachings of



Jesus in collective worship is limited. This means that pupils and adults do not have enough time to reflect on Bible stories. This affects the impact of collective worship and spiritual flourishing within a church school context. Clergy regularly lead worship on a Monday, following the Anglican traditions and exploring school values. Uplifting singing worship is an important part of how pupils and adults express spirituality. Prayers are written by pupils and read out during worship and other class times during the day, developing an invitational spiritual response. During Friday worship, staff acknowledge pupils' personal and academic achievements, linked to the vision. This motivates pupils to encourage one another and celebrate together. The strong relationship with the local church enhances spirituality through the connections and opportunities given to pupils. Church is visited throughout the year for key Christian festivals, such as Christmas and Easter and parents enjoy participating. The welcoming atmosphere in the school makes those from all faiths and non-religious worldviews feel valued and respected.

Pupils at St John's have a clear sense of justice in big and small issues in life. The meaningful ways in which they serve others is extraordinary, reflecting the 'Fruit of the Spirit' beyond school. Key Stage 2 pupils are committed to helping at different community organisations on a weekly basis as a part of their school day. This includes work with older people, visits to a special school, assisting at the toddler group and serving at the parish lunch. Showing compassion and contributing to others' happiness is a key motivation for pupils, thereby putting the vision into practice. They know how to implement justice in a confident way. Pupil ambassadors organise a local travel project, helping families to travel safely to school, impacting the environment. Pupils thoughtfully discuss current news issues, turning their reflections into prayers and action. One pupil shared how the school values inspired their family to accommodate refugees.

The knowledgeable RE leaders ensure that the curriculum is well-structured, covering Christianity, major world religions and worldviews. Topics are revisited to deepen knowledge and understanding year on year. Consequently, pupils build effectively on their learning. A broad approach for each religion enables pupils to recognise different ways of expressing beliefs. Pupils see the relevance of their learning, resulting in respect for others' viewpoints and practices. Visits and visitors enhance RE lessons, including parents who have expertise in their own worldview. Subsequently, pupils understand the relevance of faith in a person's life.

Regular and careful monitoring of RE shows that pupils engage enthusiastically in lessons. They have enquiring minds, asking big questions about faith even from an early age. A firm understanding of religious vocabulary such as incarnation, salvation and enlightenment helps them articulate beliefs. Assessment of RE by teachers is thorough and shapes subsequent lessons. In addition, pupils assess their own work confidently, comparing their learning at the beginning and end of a topic. As a result, they progress well and the quality of RE teaching at St John's is strong.

Information

Address	Crescent Road, Friern Barnet, London N11 3LB		
Date	18 March 2025	URN	101319
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	230
Diocese/District	London		
Headteacher	Macci Dobie		
Chair of Governors	Tony Vourou		
Inspector	Claire Coulson		