



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England VC Primary School, Byfleet	
Address	Hart Road, Byfleet, KT14 7NJ
School vision	
<p style="text-align: center;">‘Learning for Life’</p> <p>‘Learning for life’ with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' is at the heart of St Mary’s. At our school children are seen as unique and will feel loved, safe and empowered to flourish so they reach their full potential both academically and personally.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders have ensured that the Christian vision is known and clearly expressed. Life in all its fullness is authentic and alive in the work of the school. The breadth of the provision on offer, especially for vulnerable pupils, means that all flourish. • The bespoke curriculum is interwoven with signs of the Christian vision. Opportunities for spiritual development are intrinsic to its implementation. Leaders are clear about the impact of the curriculum due to precise and timely monitoring. Key approaches mean that provision is tilted to secure outcomes for every child. • Worship effectively connects the Christian vision with biblical teaching and the everyday lives of pupils. It is characteristically invitational, enabling all to participate. There is a tangible sense of community. Worship has a substantial impact resulting in personality spirituality that is deep rooted and readily expressed. • Joyful and deep relationships are at the heart of the school. Expressing the vision, pupils and adults are treated well such that all are carried towards being the best they can be. Trust is high and everyone feels safe. Pupil voice is extensive meaning that there is an active responsibility towards each other. • Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a relevant curriculum. This positively impacts pupils’ knowledge of a diverse range of religions and worldviews, including Christianity. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the culture of courageous advocacy so that pupils become agents of change for communities and issues beyond the school. • Embed the renewed RE syllabus so that pupils are able to describe the impact of beliefs and practices for a wide range of people. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Learning for life is at the centre of all that happens at St Mary’s. Adults ensure that life in all its fullness is experienced by every pupil. Well known values enable them to explore the Christian vision supported by staff who model what it means to live in love. This is underpinned by deep</p>	

relationships. St Mary's is shaped by its Christian vision and is a compassionate response to the place it serves. This is shown in the support for every child, including the most vulnerable. The school is a lighthouse that reaches out to families and the community, helping all to flourish. Extensive monitoring by leaders means there is a collective understanding of both strengths and priorities for development. The Christian vision drives all aspects of the school's work enabling everyone to flourish.

The curriculum is a strong expression of the Christian vision. It is intentionally threaded with themes, such as justice, giving opportunities to deepen understanding beyond defined knowledge. Spiritual development is intrinsic throughout provision by design. This is seen most notably in the bespoke 'nature and nurture' sessions that deeply nourish participants. A well understood model for spirituality allows the school to look out into the world, reflect deeply and take action to grow. This is amplified by the daily approach to PSHE. This ensures a timely response to the challenges of living in community. Daily practices, such as meditation and the use of prayer corners, further deepen the spiritual flourishing of all. Teaching is well-adapted and challenges all, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and pupils deemed vulnerable. When learning is hard there are routines in place to help, such as pre-teaching and structured interventions. This means that everyone can learn together. Every opportunity is given to shine in lessons and beyond. The innovative life skills programme is highly valued. The extensive co-curricular offer, including sport and the arts, means that all can reach for their best. Leaders work intentionally to model, exemplify and monitor provision. Training for staff ensures they can teach the planned curriculum effectively. Engagement with training, including for leaders, is extensive. This means the school is well placed to respond to the range of circumstances that can impact a community. Expressing the vision, pupils and adults feel loved, safe and empowered.

Collective worship is a beacon of the Christian vision. Leaders plan the pattern with care. It is rooted in biblical teaching and enriched by regular visits from clergy and the 'Open the Book' team. Resources, including the diocesan scheme, are well used. Visits to the parish church for key festivals, and special events in school such as 'Christmas Tree Worship', provide deeply meaningful experiences. It is a time for everyone, with invitational language carefully and consistently used. It has a very positive impact on the spiritual development of those present. Prayer is vital, providing space for quiet and reflection. Pupils participate appropriately to make it their own. Christian teachings of the Trinity are well understood. A range of styles are used so that through word, song and liturgy there is a richness of Christian praise. Through the work of the 'collective crew', pupils lead, plan and evaluate worship. These contributions deepen their spiritual development. Impact is monitored by school leaders so that participants are always inspired. Engagement is regular with the typical structure providing opportunities to respond and contribute. All are helped to see beyond themselves to how humanity is connected. There is an understanding of what it means to seek and realise life in all its fullness.

St Mary's deeply expresses its Christian vision through the breadth of its daily actions. Joyful interactions reveal a loving culture. It is a place where all are unreservedly welcomed, dignified and safe. The extensive pastoral provision means families trust the school. This is underpinned by studying themes and people that celebrate the diversity of modern Britain. The innovative 'wellbeing champions' promote the importance of positive mental health for all. Pupils value how customs such as daily meditation help them to be their best selves. Staff value being part of the school because they are trusted to seek the very best for every child. A range of training opportunities enables adults to grow. The culture of togetherness means that at times of difficulty there is extensive support for one another. This is a striking expression of the vision.

Pupil voice is at the heart of St Mary's. Extensive opportunities to contribute mean there is a place for everyone. For example, peer mediators nurture leadership while also deepening responsibility

for others. Policy is rooted in restorative practices that reveal the impact of positive relationships. Most striking is the ‘star bowl’ which all can contribute to and periodically leads to a positive whole school event. This is empowering, showing how individual actions can unite for the common good. Regular social action is taken in support of well-known charities and causes such as the harvest collection for the food bank. However this advocacy is typically focussed locally. This means pupil perspectives are not as full and rounded as they could be. The school maintains a wide range of local partnerships that help pupils appreciate the community they are part of. Visits to a care home and singing by the choir at community events are a strong expression of this. The church enriches the school through its welcoming open doors and regular presence in school. Activities such as the ‘Laser Club’ allow pupils to connect and deepen relationships with one another.

Pupils enjoy RE teaching. The subject has a high profile in the school. Lessons are a safe space to learn about belief, philosophical concepts and human science. As a result, key knowledge about the religions and worldviews studied is secured. However, pupils’ appreciation of the impact of belief on people and society is not as developed. Leaders have used high quality resources to inform the design of the RE curriculum. Training means leaders are well-placed to deepen the quality of lessons with expertise cascaded to staff. This ensures clear teaching progression and accurate judgements regarding the next steps.

The inspection findings indicate that St Mary’s Church of England School, Byfleet is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	1 February 2024	URN	125150
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	455
Diocese	Guildford		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Jacquie Chambers		
Chair	Geoff Hurst		
Inspector	Andy Higgs	No.	2230