

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Clearwell Church of England Primary School

Address	Church Road, Clearwell, Coleford, Gloucestershire GL16 8LG		
Date of inspection	23/10/2019	Status of school	Voluntary Controlled
Diocese	Gloucester	URN	115638

Overall Judgement	Grade	Good
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?		
Additional Judgement		
The impact of collective worship	Grade	Good

School context

Clearwell C of E Primary School is a smaller than average primary school with 45 pupils on roll. The school has a low level of religious and cultural diversity and very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above the national average. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above the national average.

The school's Christian vision

"A small school providing endless adventures."

Theologically rooted in biblical text from Luke 6:31 'Do to others as you would have them do to you,' our Clearwell children are inspired by our vision and associated Christian values to be Adventurous, Creative, Confident communicators and Life-long learners.

Key findings

- The strong leadership and vision of the headteacher and dedication of all staff ensure that this Church school is good at meeting the needs of both children and adults, thus enabling them to flourish.
- This is a school where the pupils' unique talents and gifts are understood and nurtured. As a result, the curriculum and Christian ethos of the school inspire them with exciting and relevant learning.
- Partnerships between the school, families and members of the local community are highly valued and enable the development of widespread positive relationships in a spirit of mutual respect.
- Collective worship and RE offer pupils a secure space for thinking and considering the important questions of life.
- School leaders understand the needs of the community and provide very effective assistance so that individuals receive the support that they require to thrive.

Areas for development

- Refine the new RE assessment strategies in order to give a clear picture of standards and progress across the school.
- Revise the arrangements for monitoring and evaluating worship, in order to provide a clear picture of the strengths and areas for development.
- Provide additional opportunities for children to experience a range of faiths and cultures in order to enhance their understanding of difference and diversity.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Clearwell is an inclusive and caring Christian community. The school's theologically-linked vision can be seen in both the academic and spiritual development of the children. The headteacher and staff demonstrate a high level of care through their commitment to 'treat everyone with respect'. The vision has a significant impact on all stakeholders and is championed by the whole community. As a result, positive relationships with clear evidence of love and care are evident throughout the school. The areas for development from the previous inspection report have been successfully addressed by the cohesive teamwork of the headteacher, staff and governors. Careful planning and effective training has ensured this success. Governors play an important role in supporting the Christian ethos. Together with school leaders, they have accurately evaluated the school's strengths and clearly identified areas to improve, to ensure that all staff and children's needs are fully met. Links with local churches enrich educational opportunities and ensure that the school is at the heart of the community. This regular engagement with the school can be seen at popular services and festivals, where the whole school community is welcome. The school's Christian vision of friendship fosters a very effective partnership with parents. As a result, parents make significant contributions to the life of the school, which positively benefits the whole community. The school meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship.

High quality learning opportunities are driven by the school's vision to 'provide endless adventures'. Children speak enthusiastically about their work. The nature-loving welly walks are a good example of this. The curriculum is carefully designed to enhance children's spiritual, moral and social development. All children are gently nurtured and encouraged, particularly those who are vulnerable. A shared understanding of spirituality has been developed. One outcome of this can be seen in the range of opportunities for times of quiet prayer and reflection. There have been fluctuations in children's academic attainment and their attendance since the last inspection. This is due to significant changes in pupil numbers and greater levels of need. However, children continue to make good progress. Children understand the importance of living out Christian values in their lives. They are able to describe the way each value is linked to the Bible. The values have a positive impact on the way in which children interact with others. The children are able to make mature choices when deciding on which charities should be supported. They speak passionately about the challenges faced by those they are supporting, such as those who use the local foodbank. This successful child-led initiative illustrates a genuine desire to support others.

Parents describe ways in which the distinctive Christian character of the school is clearly expressed by staff. The school's Christian vision inspires everyone in 'trusting one another' and creates positive pupil interactions. Children talk of 'forever forgiving' especially when someone is 'feeling upset'. This sensitive approach clearly benefits all members of their school community. Stakeholders speak highly of the time taken to develop strong local links, alongside festive celebrations and fundraising events. All staff go well above and beyond, particularly for those more vulnerable. The staff's approach to wellbeing is extremely positive with a clear climate of support where all are able to flourish. This clear moral purpose ensures each pupil's life is fully enriched. The school's inclusive nature ensures that all are welcomed and celebrated. As a result, all pupils flourish and display a clear understanding of and respect for difference and diversity. Pupils display confidence and are thoughtful with their words and actions.

Worship provides a rich programme of themes, fostering high levels of engagement. Children and adults speak of its importance to the spiritual life of the school. The school vision 'inspires hope' through the daily act of worship, even when significant challenges are being faced. Pupils speak confidently and demonstrate how they can apply key messages to their own lives. These permeate all aspects of school life and are visible throughout the school community. A varied programme of pupil-led collective worship enhances pupils' spiritual development. Children are able to articulate their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinity. There is a secure understanding of Christian festivals, enhanced by well-attended Christmas, Easter and Harvest events at church. Here the local community join in 'like an extended family'. There are varied opportunities for reflection and prayer, which are delivered through carefully selected themes. This effectively promotes thought and contemplation, enhancing the spiritual development of all. However, there are not sufficient opportunities for pupils to evaluate worship, which limits future progress.

The RE curriculum is driven by the schools Christian vision of 'providing endless adventures'. Children are empowered with the 'courage to communicate confidently'. There is an appropriate emphasis on the stories of Jesus and RE fulfils the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. Supported by the introduction of the 'Understanding Christianity' resource, the pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity is good. However new RE assessment and monitoring procedures are in their infancy. As a result, there is not a clear picture of standards and progress across the school. Pupils apply their skills in RE to provide responses to the 'important questions in life' about meaning and purpose. Even the youngest pupils are adept at applying religious principles to moral and ethical dilemmas, They engage with maturity in discussions and debates, speaking with love, care and knowledge. However, the school does not provide sufficient opportunity for pupils to experience other faiths, to fully appreciate the world's diversity. Leaders' attendance at diocesan training displays the schools commitment to development. Links with other local schools are well developed. The school recognises their local RE Hub as an opportunity to enhance good practice.

Headteacher	Cilla James
Inspector's name and number	David Scorer 841