

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Infant School, Farnham	
Address	Barford Lane, Churt, Farnham, GU10 2JE
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	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>This is a place where we can grow as life-long learners, understand the value of trusting friendships, show thankfulness and compassion to others, and make mistakes knowing that we will be forgiven. We find peace and become peacemakers in the knowledge that we are letting our light shine.</p> <p>'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is the heartbeat of this excellent Church school. As a result, pupils and adults flourish exceptionally well. • The innovative curriculum has a lasting and transformational impact, enabling pupils to thrive. • Pupil leaders model and champion the school values with pride. This has a striking impact on all pupils' character development. • Excellent collective worship is a special part of each day for pupils and adults. A rich culture of prayerful reflection enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. Refinement to shared language will enhance this further. • Religious education (RE) is exceptionally well led. Pupils have strong knowledge which is evident in their understanding of respect, diversity and difference. Leaders are committed to sharing this practice.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharpen the shared understanding of spirituality so that spiritual growth continues to support flourishing across the school community. • Continue to develop innovative teaching and learning in RE through extending outreach work. This will enable the school's excellent RE to have a wider impact.



Inspection findings

St John's is an excellent Church school, led with humility and grace. Highly effective Christian leadership at all levels guides this school, ensuring ongoing flourishing for all.

Leaders and governors are clear how biblical teaching roots the well-established Christian vision. Their exceptional vision driven thinking guides and informs all strategic and school development priorities. They articulate this with wisdom and determination. The vision is at the heart of a school culture that changes lives for the better as a matter of extraordinary and exceptional routine. Self-evaluation systems are stringent and robust. This ensures pupils and adults continue to flourish.

The Christian vision drives all aspects of curriculum development. Leaders and governors articulate with pride how the Christian vision underpins all curriculum decisions. Staff, leaders and governors all strive for excellence. Leaders carefully considered the needs of the school community when devising the bold and ambitious curriculum. The school clearly lives out its Christian vision through its support for pupils deemed to be vulnerable and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This support is a strength of the school. Timely intervention and dedicated specialist support are pursued tenaciously to ensure all barriers to learning are overcome. Leaders and staff are rightly proud of the success stories of those pupils who join them from other schools. These pupils receive genuine fresh starts which upholds the Christian vision. Parents state, 'at St John's you feel warm and loved'. Curriculum provision has a transformational impact ensuring flourishing in the widest sense.

Approaches to spiritual development are well embedded. Extremely effective opportunities are skilfully mapped out. Weekly 'thoughtful time' in each class allows pupils to ask big questions and explore spiritual and ethical issues. Thoughtful moments books in each class showcase this impressive work. Spontaneous opportunities, including prayer, create rich spiritual experiences within a culture of deep reflection. Pupils value spending time in both the central prayer and reflection area and linked spaces in each classroom. This has a lasting positive impact on their mental health and spiritual growth. Pupils share poignant examples of how their personal prayer life at school shapes home experiences.

The Christian vision drives the school's engagement in social action and being courageous advocates for change. Pupils realise their mature vision driven thinking through engagement with a commendable range of fundraising, charitable partnerships and social action projects. For example, the school council voted to support charities responding to natural disasters and conflicts. They challenge poverty at a local, national and international level. This is seen through their work with a charity in Malawi. Pupils at St John's make a difference through their innovative courageous action. They make their voices heard. They talk animatedly about how this work is an expression of the Christian vision as it allows everyone to 'let their light shine'.

Six pupil values leaders, model and promote the school's values with pride. One pupil for each value is chosen for this special role by their predecessor. This is based on demonstrating thankfulness, peace, love and compassion, forgiveness, trust and friendship consistently during the year. This is an innovative and well thought through initiative that has a striking impact. Pupils have a mature understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation. They delight in explaining how the curriculum supports their understanding of respect, diversity and difference. Parents share their admiration for how the school ensures pupils develop tolerance and dignity from a very young age. This is rooted in a deeply loving culture of an all-encompassing acceptance of people, driven by the Christian vision. Relationships




between all members of the community are exceptionally strong and supportive. Pupils' behaviour is excellent, and attendance is high. The Christian vision unites the staff team who feel truly valued and supported. They deeply appreciate the time the headteacher dedicates to supporting their wellbeing. Parents cite numerous examples of how staff support their mental health with care and compassion. These approaches have a life-changing impact. Staff and leaders attend and lead a wide range of professional development opportunities. This includes working with and supporting other schools, contributing to the flourishing of others.

Excellent collective worship has a lasting and powerful impact. It transforms lives. Worship is overwhelmingly invitational, inclusive and inspirational. All cherish worship as a magical, vital and captivating part of each school day. Pupils and staff deeply value the time for reflection and prayer. They clearly illustrate how learning and spiritual growth in worship enables them to flourish. Parents see and appreciate the positive impact of school worship at home, stating 'the values shine through'. Staff shared many examples of the positive impact of worship on individuals' lives, including enriching them as adults. Pupils experience a range of creative worship styles. Drama, role play, stillness, music and silence are used wisely, creating rich experiences. A variety of Anglican traditions are very well-established ensuring pupils understand the different elements of Christian worship. Pupil worship and values leaders effectively lead and assist worship with confidence. The school environment significantly enhances the worship life of the school through high quality and well-chosen prayer areas, reflection books and displays. A robust cycle of monitoring and evaluation by leaders and governors ensures effective feedback, supporting continued improvement in the school's worship practice. Links with the local church are very well established. Clergy and a local assemblies team visit regularly. These partnerships further enrich the worship life of the school.

RE powerfully expresses the Christian vision. It shines brightly throughout an ambitious, responsive and challenging RE curriculum. The curriculum is well planned and builds effectively on prior learning. It has the highest priority across the school. Pupils talk with an infectious joy about RE lessons. They really enjoy and value the subject. All pupils, even the very youngest, understand the importance of learning about Christianity and a range of faiths and beliefs. Consequently, pupils are incredibly tolerant and respectful. As a result of excellent provision, pupils produce work of a high standard. They share this with enthusiasm and pride. Robust monitoring and assessment systems, established by the highly effective RE leader, are well embedded. The RE leader supports and guides teachers with planning and assessment. This ensures RE teaching is creative and dynamic. Strong links with the diocese and local networks ensure that current developments are reflected in innovative classroom practice. For example, the RE leader is supporting the development of a new diocesan scheme of work, contributing to the flourishing of others.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent
	<p>Teaching and learning in RE is excellent. Lessons are skilfully crafted and creatively delivered ensuring RE teaching has a deep and long-lasting impact. The curriculum is rich, engaging and promotes extensive thinking and reflection. The school's wider focus on diversity enables pupils to develop a remarkable understanding of respect and tolerance. Pupils make excellent progress. Their work is of a high standard. As a result, pupils of all abilities flourish in the subject.</p>		
Information			
School	St John's Church of England Infant School, Farnham	Inspection date	30 March 2023
URN	125184	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided
Diocese/District	Guildford	Pupils on roll	84
Headteacher	Marion Stevens		
Chair of Governors	Clair Craven		
Inspector	Christian McGuinness	No.	2113