

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew's CofE Primary School, Congresbury	
Address	Station Road, Congresbury, BS49 5DX
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	Good

School's vision
<p>Our vision, "growing together" unlocks pupils' potential to thrive, developing character, encouraging inclusivity. We nurture growing together inwardly (towards God), outwardly (developing skills and talents) and in service (to others). Living out core values of courage, compassion and trust, our community grows spiritually to be the best version of themselves.</p> <p>"A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds but when it grows, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree so that birds come and make their nests in its branches."</p> <p>Mark 4: 30-32</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's deeply Christian vision and values underpin the actions of its strong leadership. Christian love is at the heart of all they do to enable all to flourish. • The school is highly inclusive of all pupils and adults supporting every individual to flourish as a child of God. • Religious education (RE) reflects the Christian vision enabling children to consider and reflect upon Christianity as a living world religion alongside other faiths. • Collective worship supports the Christian vision of the school, encouraging pupils to become active advocates for change. Pupil involvement in leading collective worship, however, is not strong. • Monitoring and evaluation by leaders is not sufficiently robust or helpful to support the continuing journey forward as a church school.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase opportunities for pupils to plan and lead their own collective worship to support the development of character and spirituality. • Refine the monitoring and evaluation process to better support future development of the school as a church school.

Inspection findings

St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School has a deeply held Christian vision and loving culture. The school is led by a strong and passionate board of governors, alongside a determined and uncompromising headteacher. This school is a place where everyone is valued and cared about. The Christian vision is known by everyone and being part of this school community changes lives. A corridor display of the tree growing from a mustard seed reminds pupils that they grow in God's love. One pupil told me that when they are a 'tree' they will be able to help the 'seeds' in reception to grow. Pupils' own prayers include the lines, 'Help us to plant mustard seeds (of love) in other people's hearts,' and 'Help us to grow into mighty plants.'

Good mental health and wellbeing of pupils and staff is fundamentally important to leaders and is a key success of the school. St Andrew's employs the THRIVE approach highly successfully across the school to support pupil wellbeing and social skills. Behaviour is extremely good. Forgiveness and reconciliation are practised by all. The school is calm and focused on happy learning. Pupils are nurtured and respectful resulting in progress being beyond what would be expected. In line with the Christian vision, care and support is extended to families. Parents appreciate this saying that they recognise that they are truly part of this extended school family. They are grateful for all that the school does for their children to help them grow into good people.

Meaningful relationships and partnerships enable all within the school to flourish. School, families, church, parish and village, work closely together. The church's children and youth worker and the vicar regularly visit and lead worship in school. Pupils visit the church to learn about the building and to worship at major festivals when parents are invited to join them. The parish organises extensive Christmas and Easter 'experiences' in the church for pupils to explore more deeply the Bible characters and traditions of the festivals. The parish hosts the weekly 'Take 5' breakfast club in church for pupils and families on their way to school. In line with the Christian vision, partnerships are strong. The school enjoys the benefits of mutual support within the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) and the diocese.

The school cares deeply about its children and their families. In line with its vision, close links are maintained with pupils and families at all times as demonstrated throughout the COVID pandemic. Staff went the second mile to demonstrate care by, for example, supplying food and ensuring access learning for pupils. Staff believe they are a strong team both professionally and pastorally. They look after each other. Leaders give them opportunities to progress with qualifications and training, and to run new ventures for pupils in school. The annual 'permission to play' day organised by support staff, with innovative role reversal between teachers and teaching assistants, demonstrates the confidence staff have in each other.

Driven by their Christian vision to grow together, the school is highly inclusive. All are welcome here. The significant number of Gypsy, Romany, Traveller (GRT) pupils attending the school are included as a key part of the community. Innovative curriculum enrichment, including a painted horseshoe project, and appropriate support to ensure that the curriculum can be accessed, is routine. All pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are identified and individually supported with a wide range of interventions. Impact is carefully monitored. Families too are offered appropriate support, demonstrating the school's commitment to enabling all to flourish.

Pupil voice is particularly strong across the school, demonstrating the impact of the Christian vision in the commitment to holistic pupil development. Pupil committees input into whole



school decision making such as designing a new Key Stage 2 play area. The Treetops initiative sees mixed age groups of pupils being inspired to act as agents of social change, for example, organising events for local residents. Supported by staff and church members pupils make invitations, bake cakes etc. demonstrating care for their community.

Collective worship is central to school life and has some excellent features. It includes Anglican traditions, is invitational, inclusive and planned around a cycle of Christian values inspiring courageous advocacy. However, pupils are not given sufficient opportunity to plan and deliver their own collective worship. Reflection and prayer are important to the school. The Lord's Prayer, school prayer, class prayers, and pupils' own prayers feature daily in school life. There are reflection areas in every classroom encouraging pupils' personal prayer. The extensive school grounds, provide opportunities for pupils to develop their personal spirituality and learn about God's world. After lying on their back in silence under the trees, a pupil said it felt calm and was thankful to God. Awe and wonder moments abound for example in the lighting of a fire using flints or tie-dying with the juice of blackberries from their own hedges during Forest school sessions.

RE is well resourced and lessons start with 'big questions' immediately involving pupils in reflection and consideration of new ideas. Pupils enjoy RE lessons and feel safe to express themselves, posing their own big questions such as 'Why would God let this happen?' A governor observed that pupils were 'deeply engaged.' The spiral RE curriculum secures knowledge. It encourages pupil awareness of Christianity as a living, world faith by drawing comparisons between it and other world religions. Pupils of all faiths enjoy and feel included in lessons.

Leaders successfully encourage pupils as created in the image of God, to be the best that they can be. The Christian vision is expressed through a broad and enriched curriculum including, for example, Forest School and community litter picking. Pupils participate in the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders Award. An 'Art in Heaven' competition ran as part of the art curriculum and moral issues around slums in India are discussed in geography. The adoption by pupils of a growth mindset is evident. Rewards are given each week to pupils who have demonstrated the school's Christian values such as perseverance with maths or being kind to someone who is sad. Pupils are very familiar with stories from the Bible and with the life and parables of Jesus. Some said that in the playground they try to be like the good Samaritan. Transition is carefully planned and supports new families joining the school, including invitations to stay and play in Forest School.

Pupils and staff are proud of their school. Pupils are confident that staff will always be there for them and staff say that 'everyone is made welcome and loved here.'



Information			
School	St Andrew's CofE Primary School, Congresbury	Inspection date	13 January 2023
URN	109216	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Bath & Wells	Pupils on roll	193
MAT/Federation	Lighthouse Schools Partnership		
Headteacher	Fran Martin		
Chair of Governors	David Kemp		
Inspector	Alison Appleyard	No.	877