

# Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

## Westbury-on-Trym Church of England Academy

### Vision

'Striving for Excellence, enriching our Faith, cherishing our Community' is our vision statement, known as our 'Westbury Ways.' The National Church reminds us that Jesus promises 'life in all its fullness.' (John 10: 10). We are a school family whose Christian distinctive ethos and values is the foundation for everything. We want all our children to flourish. Our mission is for each child to achieve their very best in all they do. Our belief is that all children are loved by God, are individually unique, and that it is our responsibility to help each child to fulfil their potential.

### Strengths

- 'Westbury Ways' promote an effective Christian vision modelled by strong and inspiring leadership. This ensures pupils and adults are experiencing 'life in all its fullness'.
- Well planned religious education (RE) is a real strength of the school. As a result, most pupils speak readily and confidently about religious matters.
- Living well together is particularly evident in relationships between parents/ carers, school and church. This mutual caring substantially benefits both the school and wider community.
- There is a clear and visionary development plan formulated by governors and leaders. This ensures the future strategic direction as a Church school.
- There is thorough and extensive provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). As a result, the needs of learners are successfully met.

### Development Points

- Embed the shared understanding of spirituality through identifying rich opportunities in all curriculum subjects. This is to show that spirituality pervades all areas of life.
- Deepen knowledge of the global diversity of Christian practice. This is to strengthen understanding that Christians may approach belief and worship in a variety of ways.



## Inspection Findings

The 'Westbury Ways' promote a strong Christian vision which is clearly lived by staff and pupils alike. It is relevant to the community through promoting the biblical idea of 'living life in all its fullness.' Pupils know the vision well, and they are enthusiastic in putting it into practice in and out of school. As a result, their lives are enriched and there is personal and academic growth. The school is part of NW24, a network and partnership of schools in north and west Bristol. The impact of this is seen in collaboration to ensure the delivery of the highest possible quality of education. A strong group of governors, with an impressive set of skills, regularly monitor the vision. This is evident in minutes and reports from regular visits. It also means that school leadership has a clear strategic view of its development as a Church school in the future. There is a particularly good relationship with the Diocese of Bristol seen in the impact of the training and support offered. As a result, the diocese has hallmarked the school with a Church School Partnership Award.

The vision encourages a broad and imaginative curriculum. Through lesson observation it is evident that pupils are reflective learners. Pupils indicate their interest through ready engagement with tasks and questions in class. This extends to even those with SEND. Provision for them at school is particularly strong. Attention to detail in educating those pupils with SEND is very evident through their obvious engagement and enjoyment of learning. The impact of this is seen in the ready appreciation of support indicated by parents and carers. Reflective spaces support learning, and a 'Golden Rule' book encourages written reflections on living the vision. A variety of responses from pupils and adults in the book evidence this. There is a shared understanding of spirituality, although not all pupils can explain this. Staff reflections on what this might look like in each year group are evident. Further discussion on rich opportunities for spiritual development in each subject continues to be embedded.

Collective worship is well organised, and has clear impact seen in the eager willingness of pupil participation. It links with the vision and values seen in the school prayer. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in a variety of ways, such as drama and enthusiastic singing. The centrality and understanding of prayer is also seen in the class prayers pupils write for collective worship. Evaluation of worship, shared with the headteacher, is driving future planning. A spirit of thankfulness for God's world and creation is evident in their reflections. The vicar is a regular leader of worship, and pupils are familiar with the church building through frequent visits. Pupils and staff speak of how they are inspired by seeing the church through the school windows and hearing the bells. The impact of this is evident in a knowledge of Christian beliefs, and an understanding of symbols. As an example, pupils can readily explain the idea of the Trinity symbolised by the threefold candle used in worship. The worship is invitational and inclusive. Inclusivity is clearly demonstrated through provision for those who feel unable to participate. Visits from the 'Open the Book' team encourage pupil participation with many ready to volunteer. Spiritual moments for pupils are inspired by worship, particularly through music and song. Personal spiritual development is evident in their desire to truly live the vision.

The vision strongly promotes the idea of cherishing the community, and as a result pupils care for one another. They behave well and are very considerate. This extends beyond the school with parents and carers indicating that 'nobody feels lost.' All cultures and faith are valued, and this seen in truly open-minded interest in one another's beliefs. Former pupils return to assist with school events such as sports day. All of this speaks of living well together in line with the vision. Displays help pupils to consider their mental health and staff speak of how the community helps their wellbeing. WhatsApp groups and other means are much appreciated and ready communication helps hold the community together. Support for pupils, parents and carers is evident through caring and approachable staff. Parents and carers appreciate the Church school ethos and its impact especially in terms of giving a moral compass.



There is a long-standing link with a school in Nepal. Some pupils and families have visited there. As a result, there is a real understanding of global citizenship and the lives of others in different contexts. This is seen in thankful appreciation of life in Westbury-on-Trym. As well as this the school community does a great deal of charitable work. This is at local, global, and international level. Pupils understand and speak strongly about ecological issues, and they express their concern in many practical ways. A pupil 'reflect and express' group considers this and other issues. Most pupils understand Christian responsibility and the quest for justice. The strong sense of community is evident in school support of local events. This range of activities ensures a growing understanding of the idea of being agents of change.

RE is very well planned and organised throughout the school. Staff involvement in diocesan training strengthens teaching and learning. The subject has clear impact on the lives of the pupils and their personal spirituality. From the earliest years they handle the Bible and begin to be familiar with its teachings. They understand the effect that religion might have on peoples' lives. Further impact is seen through good recall of prior learning. Many pupils readily display clear and confident knowledge of Christianity and world faiths. As an example, they easily express an understanding of Islam and the beliefs of some of their fellow pupils. This promotes an appreciation of the place of prayer in the practice of both religions. Pupils show an understanding of religious symbols in explaining their significance. There is good evidence of learning in RE books, and lively classroom displays provide a stimulating environment. The curriculum is planned so that topics are revisited periodically, and its design allows a steady progression in skills. There is an understanding of Christianity as a multicultural faith in Britain, but this is less clear globally. Most pupils understand Christianity as a living faith and speak confidently about its effect on society.

## Information

Address	Channell's Hill, Bristol. BS9 3HZ		
Date	3 October 2024	URN	137602
Type of school	Academy (Inspected as Voluntary Controlled)	No. of pupils	415
Diocese	Bristol		
Headteacher	Amanda Pritchard		
Chair of Governors	Stephanie Pritchett		
Inspector	Jeremy Hellier		