



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

<b>St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Farnham</b>	
Address	Little Green Lane, Farnham, GU9 8TF
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>At St Peter's we have high expectations where everyone flourishes, achieves and succeeds within a safe, inclusive Christian community. We promote gospel teachings of independence, respect and empathy. Through an exciting curriculum, children are inspired to find joy as lifelong learners and active world citizens.</p> <p>Jesus said, "Love one another, as I have loved you" John 13 v34</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The deeply committed and exceptional leadership of the headteacher ensures that the Christian vision is at the heart of the school. Leaders' relentlessness in decision making is transformative on the entire school community, enabling all to flourish.</li> <li>• Invitational collective worship deeply embodies the vision and is an integral part of the school day. Opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth are rich and highly valued by staff and pupils.</li> <li>• Exemplary leadership of RE ensures that the curriculum is high quality, rigorous and challenging. Pupils are encouraged to think deeply about big questions of meaning and consider how these relate to their own lives.</li> <li>• Within this deeply loving community, the school promotes a strong culture of respect and inclusion where all feel highly valued and cared for.</li> <li>• Social action within the school community is celebrated. Pupils feel empowered and inspired to live out Christian values through their own positive choices.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further enhance opportunities for pupil leadership through deepening partnerships. This is to enrich links to the wider community.</li> </ul>

## Inspection findings

The deeply Christian vision serves as the bedrock of the school community. Leadership is exemplary and there is a strong culture of love, respect and dignity for all. This vision is securely rooted in Christian theology and underpins all aspects of school life. Leaders are relentless in shaping opportunities for pupils to develop as active global citizens and to recognise their own power in making a difference. This is transformational in the way that pupils are inspired to be courageous and empathetic to others.

School governance is a real strength. Robust systems of monitoring and evaluation mean that governors have a secure understanding of the school's priorities. Leaders know their school well and make bold decisions when needed. The school is seen as being the heart of the local community. Highly innovative and strong partnerships are an integral part of the school's outward facing vision. The relatively recent opening of the Green Shoots Nursery reflects the success of these collaborative partnerships. Leaders highly value the opportunity to build strong and lasting relationships with local families. Senior leaders take an active role within both the local community and the diocese. Staff feel highly valued and proud of their community. Leaders drive a culture of openness and support which recognises the transforming role of high quality professional development. Staff feel empowered by this and there is a strong desire to pursue innovation in order to improve practice.

Staff, at all levels, are highly ambitious for their pupils. This is reflected in the richness and breadth of the curriculum. Now, and throughout the pandemic, leaders' courageous and impactful decisions transform opportunities for learners considered to be vulnerable. School leaders are relentless in their drive to ensure that highly effective teaching enables all pupils to flourish and find joy in their learning. Leaders prioritise opportunities in the curriculum to celebrate diversity and to make connections to Christian values. The curriculum is broad and innovative. All pupils have access to the well-established forest school and regularly engage in outdoor learning and other activities such as cooking and yoga. The wide range of extra-curricular clubs available to pupils suitably offer them with a broad range of opportunities to flourish. Pupils speak courageously about their leadership roles in the school. This is seen through committees such as the Fairtrade, eco group, school council and global action group. Pupils articulate clearly the links between Christian teachings and the actions of individuals in response to global issues. Dynamic and strong partnerships with a number of schools around the world feed into a globally inspired curriculum.


Driven by the vision, leaders at all levels prioritise opportunities for pupils to build independence and to support their own wellbeing. The introduction of the Trick Box programme of personal development is fully embedded across the school. This empowers pupils with the tools to deal with life's challenges and to regulate their own emotions. As a consequence, this has strengthened already positive relationships between school and home. Parents speak highly of the impact that this has on their children's resilience. Pupil ambassadors are proud to talk about how they actively support their peers with strategies for wellbeing. Designated spaces for personal reflection such as the peace garden are highly valued by pupils. Leaders promote a school culture which celebrates courage and active citizenship. Pupils are given opportunities to think deeply about big issues such as sustainability and poverty. Consequently, pupils get involved with their local community by supporting their local foodbank and sustainability festival.

Collective worship is inspirational, dynamic and includes all. Effective leadership ensures that bespoke planning enriches worship. Strong partnerships with both the diocese and the local church support leaders to provide resources that are of high quality and relevant. This means that staff enjoy and feel confident leading class worship. Diversity is celebrated and

pupils learn about a wider global society. The liturgical calendar is celebrated with some services taking place at St Peter's Church and involving the wider school community. Moments of reflection and prayer are fully embedded within the school day. Time set aside to pause is cherished and highly valued by all. These opportunities for reflection enable pupils to explore big questions of meaning. Pupils are encouraged to appreciate the relevance of faith in the world today. Subsequently, leaders have carefully chosen weekly themes which engage pupils with local, national and global issues. For instance, Fairtrade week incorporates worship based around fairness and injustice in the world. This opens up a wealth of opportunity for pupils to engage deeply with ethical questions and moral dilemmas. Teachers are skilful in their use of questioning to explore themes with sufficient depth and meaning. Pupils actively engage with worship and they are confident exploring how Christian values can be lived out in real life. Pupils participate fully with the evaluation of worship, taking a central role in future planning.

Leadership in RE is exceptionally strong. Sequential curriculum planning is innovative, well-considered and challenging. Material from the resource Understanding Christianity further enriches bespoke units of study. Opportunities for pupils to theologically explore Christian teachings enhances their depth of understanding of Christianity within modern life. Pupils are skilful in articulating challenging concepts and overarching questions about their own sense of self and purpose. RE fully supports opportunities for spiritual development. High levels of expertise from leaders ensures that the quality of RE is carefully monitored and the views of pupils gathered. The highly ambitious RE curriculum provides widespread opportunities for pupils to enrich their understanding of worldviews and faiths, including Christianity.

St Peter's school has a strong sense of community and an ambitious vision which is lived out in all aspects of school life. Leaders inspire and promote a culture of reflection and development amongst both staff and pupils. Guided by the vision, this is a community that respects each other and recognises the inherent value in everyone.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent
	RE provision is rigorously planned and the well balanced curriculum provides high levels of challenge. As a consequence, pupils build a deep understanding of key concepts. Pupils enjoy the richness of their RE lessons and teaching is highly effective. This supports excellent levels of progression so that all learners, including pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are able to flourish within the subject.		
Information			
School	St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Farnham	Inspection date	2 March 2023
URN	125182	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided
Diocese/District	Guildford	Pupils on roll	444
Headteacher	Sarah Dunning		
Chair of Governors	Bart Caines and Neil Ambrose		
Inspector	Rachel Croft	No.	2126