

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Stanmore St John's Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	127 Stanmore Hill, Stanmore, HA7 3FD
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>'...I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength' (Philippians 4:13).</p> <p>At St John's we foster an ethos deeply rooted in the Bible, underpinned by faith and committed to educational excellence. In our community we respect that everyone is uniquely made in the image of God. We grow together in wisdom, compassion, strength and instil a sense of hope for all to flourish. 'We make a difference'.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relationships of Christian-rooted love, care and compassion surround and bind the school community to live well together in a unity of wholeness. Pupils and adults are profoundly transformed because of the deep spirituality consistently promoted by the school. The rich, meaningful relationship between church and school brings about innovative vision-driven worship which gives life-affirming sustenance to the heart of the school. Leaders give unwaveringly high significance to religious education (RE), resulting in deeply religiously literate and profoundly reflective pupils. The humble, natural yet intentional culture of the whole school to live out fully its deeply Christian vision, although opportunities for engaging actively in issues of injustice are somewhat limited.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the opportunities for all pupils to engage actively in tackling issues of injustice nationally and globally.

Inspection findings

The rector describes St John's school as, 'the beacon, the light on the hill.' This accurately conveys its transformational impact in fully living out its deeply Christian vision.

The school is resolutely clear about its mission to provide Church of England education of the highest quality. With focused intention, yet spontaneously and with humility, it works from its aspirational, Christian vision. Drawing upon this conviction for everything, the headteacher and other leaders inspire all to do likewise.

Those in roles of responsibility lead in a bold and ethical way. This ensures policies and practice are created through the lens of Church of England education. Everyone speaks explicitly about the vision, its prominence around the school is physical and seen through actions. Everyday expression of it happens in collective worship. It is also conveyed in other distinct ways such as St John's Vision Song, written by pupil RE ambassadors. These root theological understanding across the school community. The ethos committee, consisting of leaders including foundation governors, clergy and diocesan adviser, effectively supports and evaluates Christian distinctiveness. Clarity of purpose ensures the school keeps moving forward as a Church school. Shared ownership of the vision and delivering Church education shaped by it unites every leader.

The school is very outward-looking. Its excellent music provision means recognition from the local authority as a music hub. Similarly, collaborative work with local schools and Harrow Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education contributed to Gold RE Quality Mark. Mutually beneficial relationships with the diocese enhance Christian distinctiveness and support other Church schools.

Collective worship is the regular heartbeat of the school. The seamless partnership with the parish church, along with others locally, enriches the school's offering. Powerful collective worship, appropriate for all and invitational by nature, is valued by everyone as a place of nurturing spirituality. Inspirational provision through the week builds a relevant theme across the school. This includes clergy-led worship with accompaniment by the school's orchestra, evoking a moving sense of community. Friday at Three is worship in each class, led by pupils. Here, worship leaders are being developed adeptly, as they spiritually offer reflection on the theme. This calmly ends the week.

Staff are supported to deliver worship, ensuring consistent high quality. Pupil worship leaders take responsibility for the use of class prayer spaces, promoting worship. Other opportunities such as the prayer room and memorial garden are used well by groups and individuals. These give different ways to reflect and offer prayers. Along with regular prayer groups, the strong feature of worship instils prayer as a bedrock of St John's.

Shared understanding of spirituality brings planned and natural opportunities, encouraging spiritual development in all. These result in pupils who are spiritually aware, profound in words and actions.

RE is given high priority, its intent and implementation reflect Church of England expectations. The subject leader skillfully leads the subject, working closely with other leaders. Teachers are supported to teach well, resulting in RE of high academic excellence. RE themed days enable concept-exploring in greater detail.

The school, an aspirational learning community, values the professional development of adults. Staff are grown as highly effective Church school leaders internally whilst some now lead in other schools.



Holistic vision-led curriculum drivers lead to a developmental and balanced contextual curriculum. This builds resilient, respectful learners. The school successfully sources external opportunities, wisely creating memorable learning experiences for pupils. An example is all pupils learning an instrument and the chance to play in the school's orchestra.

The school's inclusive commitment enables pupils with additional needs to thrive, both at St John's and if needed, in targeted provision afterwards.

The school is mindful of all vulnerable pupils, for example it has established a young carers' group. This gives invaluable support to those pupils who have this role. The senior leadership team are mentors to school-identified targeted pupils. The parish church, as part of the 'Transforming Lives for Good' programme, offers trained members who also serve as mentors. Such initiatives ensure all flourish through their learning.

The vision develops pupils with exceptional character, blossoming as the person the school believes God created them to be. Highly distinctive Christian ethos and compassionate care provide a setting where people develop strong resourcefulness and virtues. These enable them to live a life markedly influenced and changed for the better.

The powerful belief of Christ's strength gives hope to the community, including through difficult times. Remembering the pandemic and how the school responded is recalled emotionally by parents and carers. Actions protected the sense of community and brought people closer together.

Pupil leadership opportunities abound from prefects to Rights Respecting leaders. These are recognised by pupils as teaching Christian leadership skills, developing them as young leaders in their own right. The school is well regarded locally, serving its local community meaningfully. For example, eco warriors support environmental issues, including by litter picks. Through the biblical narrative of the vision, pupils are taught to live responsibly and have compassion. This includes raising money for different charities such as the Uganda partner school. Issues of injustice are explored across the curriculum and in worship. However, opportunities for engaging actively in issues of injustice are somewhat limited.

Behaviour is exemplary, underpinned by forgiveness and reconciliation. The school supports good mental health through its care for all. Actions such as staff Guardian Angels help adults to feel encouraged in their work.

The approach to relationships and sex education fosters a respect for oneself and others, shaped by Christian belief of uniqueness. The school successfully fuses Rights Respecting School status with its Christian vision to resolutely embed a culture of undeniable dignity and respect. In an all-encompassing acceptance of people, diversity is celebrated and the significant impact that each person makes is cherished. All members of the school community have a real sense of belonging. They all have deep-rooted love for St John's. These positive relationships build inter-connected community serving each other with love and compassion. Living within this strong Christian community of faith enables each individual to develop their uniqueness.

St. John's school vision ends, 'We make a difference.' Here, all are changed profoundly by genuine Christian love that pervades the school's purpose and service, leading to their flourishing.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>Through a sequential and balanced curriculum, pupils engage thoughtfully with biblical text and faith concepts. Teaching is informed by assessment of previous learning so that all pupils make good or better progress. Pupils record work in a variety of successful ways. All pupils build strong understanding of Christianity and other principal world faiths, developing deep religious literacy. They express this profoundly. Pupils' religious awareness and understanding are flourishing because of their RE learning.</p>			
Information				
School	Stanmore St John's Church of England VA Primary School	Inspection date	9 February 2023	
URN	134929	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	London	Pupils on roll	339	
Headteacher	Jo Hester			
Chair of Governors	Matthew Stone			
Inspector	Shaun Burns	No.	808	