

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Binsted Church of England Primary School			
Address	Church Street, Binsted, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4NX		
Date of inspection	13 March 2019	Status of school	VC primary
Diocese	Portsmouth and Winchester	URN	116271

Overall Judgement	Grade	Good
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?		
Additional Judgement		
The impact of collective worship	Grade	Good

<p>School context</p> <p>Binsted is a small rural primary school with 92 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is below national averages. New governors have been appointed since the last denominational inspection.</p>
<p>The school's Christian vision</p> <p>We believe in working together in a loving trusting environment fostering respect, developing an understanding of differences and encouraging a lifelong love of learning. We have faith that children will deepen their learning and we hope to develop skilled, resilient individuals who are able to embrace life's challenges.</p> <p>Faith, Hope, Love.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by the headteacher, dedicated staff and governors work together in a caring, supportive environment, driven by faith, hope and love to ensure all pupils flourish and are given positive life choices. • There is a strong inclusive approach to the curriculum and to mental health and wellbeing. This enables all pupils to make good progress academically and spiritually, given their starting points, and includes the most vulnerable. Excellent relationships support good behaviour across the school, showing respect and dignity to one another. • Girded by resilience and inspired to follow Jesus' teaching, pupils look beyond themselves as active agents of change to make a difference to others locally, nationally and globally. A particularly good example is the pupil-inspired Make a Difference [MAD] club. • The exemplary partnership with Holy Cross Church greatly benefits pupils and their families through key festivals and events. It is very evident that prayer nurtures ongoing spiritual journeys

for pupils and adults.

- Thoughtful and reflective pupils are growing in their understanding of the detail of the big Christian story which supports their spiritual development very well.

Areas for development

- Deepen pupils' understanding of the Christian belief of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit as an important aspect of Christian worship, nurturing their spiritual lives.
- Extend pupils' knowledge and understanding of a diverse range of living world faiths and worldviews, including some more minor faiths, to enrich pupils' cultural awareness.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Even Binsted's youngest pupils know the Bible talks of love and 'how we should love each other'. Undoubtedly, faith, hope and love reign, with love overarching as the meaningful heart of the school's Christian vision. School policies clearly reference the school's core values of faith, hope and love within a biblical context. Everyone can readily articulate the key Bible verse from 1 Corinthians 13 :13, even the most vulnerable pupils. One pupil quoting, 'the greatest of these is love' shared that the school's vision 'shows how we believe'. Led by the headteacher, dedicated staff and governors work together to ensure pupils flourish and are given positive life choices. Binsted's leaders work closely with the diocese, so all benefit from training and support. This means all staff and governors, including those newly in post, are well appraised of Church school development. The strong partnership with Holy Cross Church nurtures the spiritual journeys of the whole community well. One pupil said, 'I believe in God. I really like it when we talk about God with the vicar'.

High expectations influence behaviour, learning and relationships so all thrive. Above all, pupils show an amazing amount of resilience through enrichment activities which build up self-esteem and confidence. Even the most vulnerable pupils say the teachers help them to overcome their self-consciousness. Staff talk to pupils in terms of their academic progress and targets, linking these to spiritual development to make the most of their learning. This is intrinsic to what the school does in enriching and supporting their learning and thus obtaining the best from them. One pupil said, 'At this school we all think about each other and the teachers are all really kind and caring'. Bespoke support within a spirit of respect and responsibility for the individual results in many success stories. All pupils make good progress and flourish and sometimes this is better than national expectations.

Pupils take on many roles, such as young governors, church councillors and house captains, which develop their leadership roles well. Girded by resilience and inspired by Jesus' teaching, Binsted pupils look beyond themselves and are active as agents of change. A particularly good example is the pupil-inspired MAD club. Its diverse activities include a reduction of plastics, supporting the local foodbank and sponsoring a pupil from the slums of India. Pupils pray under the banner of faith, love and hope for the future. They are strong in their advocacy and are challenged to explore disadvantage and injustice.

Everyone feels welcome and respected at Binsted because of the strong Christian ethos in this 'one big family'. New members of the community are looked after well in a spirit of peace, forgiveness and friendship. Very good relationships at all levels across the school are grounded in faith, hope and love. The school acts as a hub, bringing elderly members of the community together and the school choir sings at local events. There is a strong inclusive approach to mental health and wellbeing at Binsted so all flourish. This is because the headteacher, acting on training from the diocese, wrote a policy where

the practice is now well embedded. Schemes, such as Heartsmart help prepare pupils for secondary school and allow them to disagree well together. Binsted is also a Hampshire school for rights, respect and responsibility where forgiveness and reconciliation are important. Topic days help celebrate diversity and respect differences with traditions and food shared by parents and pupils. Newsletters celebrate a myriad of events and reach everyone in church, school and village.

Invitational and inspiring collective worship which is prayerful and meaningful is an integral part of daily school life. There is an exemplary partnership with Holy Cross Church through the clergy and church members who lead worship weekly in school. Key festivals are celebrated in church where families come to 'celebrate what God has done for us'. Pupils affirm church services as 'peaceful and helps you learn more about God and Jesus'. Remembrance-tide involved pupils working with an artist to create a lasting memorial in their library to 'Monty' buried in the churchyard. Pupils designed poppies, made a display of all the fallen soldiers and took part in prayer stations in church, using prayer stones. Music in worship helps affirm faith in Jesus and the importance of following and trusting him. The new prayer space is very well used by staff and pupils who are invited to pray with the curate on Friday mornings. Pupil feedback and staff evaluations contribute to the improvement of worship for all. Year 6 church councillors train Year 5 pupils to take on leadership roles. Pupils readily articulate the Easter story and how 'Jesus died on the cross to save us from all our sins'. They speak of the importance of making sacrifices for other people. Pupils are growing in their understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but this is currently limited.

Religious education [RE] at Binsted provides a safe space to critically reflect and meaningfully explore beliefs. It supports spiritual development well, with its approach to look at self and feelings, others, beyond or mystery and beauty in what the world sees. RE is very well led and resourced with clear priorities for action and rigorous assessment in place. Progress and attainment is good, with class books recording development. Standards are in line with other core subjects. Vulnerable pupils are doing well, with some having a chance to flourish and exceeding expectations. The RE leader confirms that pupils are 'so receptive' to learning about different religions. However, the opportunity to explore a diverse range of faiths and worldviews, including some more minor faiths, is currently limited. Pupils are keen to find out more about some of the less well known living world faiths. Staff have a good understanding of Christianity, and have benefitted from the 'Understanding Christianity' training by the diocese. RE now contributes more explicitly to the Christian vision. Pupils see the detail in the outdoor big frieze of the big Christian story and use it well, giving a thoughtful account of Christianity.

Headteacher	Sharron Morton
Inspector's name and number	Lizzie McWhirter 244