

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Westbury-on-Severn Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Address The Village, Westbury-on-Severn, Gloucester, GL14 1PA

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

"Shaping the spirit, achieving together, learning together"

Through our core Christian values of respect, friendship, perseverance and forgiveness, our Westbury family is one body, shaping the spirit, achieving together and learning for life, so that all may flourish as unique children of God.

Key findings

- A dynamic, courageous and exciting learning community has been created by leaders at Westbury. Inspired by the vision in order that all 'May have life and have it to the full' John 10:10, it has enabled every member to flourish making it an excellent church school.
- The exceptional and inspirational leadership of this church school has ensured that Westbury is a centre of excellence, sharing its vision by leading innovations across the diocese.
- Courageous advocacy is a strength of the school where pupils are empowered to take action on behalf of others, working as 'Gods stewards of their environment and world' so that all might live out their vision.
- Collective worship is invitational and far-reaching in its nourishing of the school and wider community. Pupils show an excellent understanding of their roles as leaders of high quality transformational worship.
- Religious education underpins the school's vision by developing a deep love of learning about people with a range of faiths as well as Christianity, reflecting the school's vision of 'There are many parts but one body'.

Areas for development

- To ensure that the school's distinctive and theological Christian vision transcends significant leadership change and continues to drive and shape the school's strategic direction.

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

Inspirational and dynamic leadership has created a culture of love, respect and relentless compassion at Westbury. Leaders at all levels are committed to ensuring that the school's distinctive Christian vision, underpinned by the biblical text, John 10:10(b) 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full', is lived out daily. The school's vision and values are integral to the bold decisions that leaders make about school development. The new preschool venture, courageously opened during the pandemic, has been hugely successful, enabling early flourishing of pupils. The opening of the 'dandelion suite' and the development of a pastoral support team has been life changing for pupils and families. Professional development for all is a high priority at Westbury and it has had a powerful, transformational impact. Fully living out the vision, 'Shaping the spirit, our Westbury family', a strong and cohesive staff team has been created which flourish because they know leaders care deeply about their well-being. Monitoring and evaluation systems at Westbury are rigorous and effective in developing the school as an excellent church school.

The Westbury curriculum is a highly innovative and holistic expression of its Christian vision. 'Learning for life' is a driving force in its bespoke design, ensuring that pupils develop the wisdom needed to navigate life's complex journey. Relentless in its pursuit of meeting the needs of each and every child, the rich enquiry-based curriculum enables vulnerable pupils and those with additional needs to flourish. Learning is identified and made explicit, empowering pupils to be aspirational about their achievements and progress in a range of subjects. They show perseverance as they challenge themselves to be the very best they can be as unique children of God. Instrumental music tuition funded by the school for every pupil has been transformational and further performing arts opportunities continue to inspire and instil confidence and resilience. Forest school provision and a focus on outdoor learning develop an appreciation of awe and wonder of the world, shaping the spirit.

At Westbury, pupils show a relentless compassion for the wider world and seek to challenge injustice and inequality whenever possible, aiming to be 'Gods stewards of their environment and world'. Various social action projects, many initiated by the pupils, exist throughout the school. Pupils show a deep understanding of local, national and global issues and they are empowered to be advocates for change. As one pupil stated: 'As a Westbury family, together, we can do anything'.

In line with the school's vision, Westbury serves its community. Partnerships are at the heart of its inspirational impact as a church school. It works closely with the parish church, nursing home and foodbank, and it recently became a '52 Lives of Kindness' school in recognition of its outreach work. Diocesan links are strong where the headteacher works in an advisory capacity. Pastoral support for pupils and families is exemplary, and 'Christ-centered', driven by the school's vision and determination to 'shape the spirit'. This support, due to strong partnership working, transitions into secondary school where staff visit to ensure that pupil's wellbeing and flourishing continues.

Pupils at Westbury treat each other with dignity and respect. The vision of being together as a family creates a very nurturing and caring community. The development of the school's 3b's, emotional literacy support assistants and zones of regularity have provided pupils with a motivational toolkit that enables them to deal with conflict and difficult situations confidently, living out the school's values.

Collective worship at Westbury is transformational and is widely recognised as being excellent in its practice. This has resulted in the headteacher leading diocesan training. The school's values, deeply rooted in biblical teaching, are promoted exceptionally well. The weekly Valerie values teddy award celebrates when these values are lived out. The members of the worship team are highly respected and admired as inspirational role models across the school. They plan and evaluate collective worship, leading with extraordinary confidence and ease, adapting to suit the needs of different age groups. Through their work leading Sunday family worship, they lead change outwards into the community and are having a transformational impact on wider spiritual life. The school has an exceptionally deep understanding of spiritual growth. Its spirituality statement, created by the children, is represented pictorially by their Tree of Life. This binds all aspects of the schools vision, values and spirituality together. Pupils articulate how, like the fruits on the tree, they grow in the love of God and like seeds, pass that love on. Interactive opportunities for prayer and reflection, both private and collective, exist throughout the school and in all classes including outdoors, further deepening spirituality.

Leadership of religious education (RE) is of the highest quality. Both the headteacher and the RE lead effectively support teachers in the delivery of RE across the Diocese. The headteacher is a member of Gloucester's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), spreading innovation further. RE strongly reflects the school's vision by contributing to 'fullness of life'. During lessons, pupils reflect deeply and critically, exploring their own beliefs and the beliefs of others. The use of class big books to record reflections is exemplary and shared with other schools as an example of excellence. The curriculum is appropriately balanced and in line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement expectations for RE.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

The quality of teaching and learning in RE is excellent. Planning is thorough and lessons are rich, thought-provoking and engaging. Accurate recall of prior learning and the quality of discussions observed give a clear indication that excellent teaching and learning has taken place over time. Assessment is rigorous and learning gaps are addressed quickly. Governors ensure that standards are high through accurate monitoring systems that lead to improvements. This results in pupils making excellent progress.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	30 November 2021	URN	115701
Date of previous inspection	23 February 2015		
School status	Voluntary aided primary	NOR	77
Name of MAT/Federation	N/A		
Diocese / Methodist District	Gloucester		
Headteacher	David Crunkhurn		
Pupil profile	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 is in line with national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	The school is about to undergo some significant change with the resignation of the current long-standing headteacher.		
Inspector's name	Bernice Webber-Brown	No.	968