



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Clunbury Church of England Primary School

Address Clunbury, Craven Arms, Shropshire, United Kingdom, SY7 0HE

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 **Good**

The impact of collective worship **Good**

The effectiveness of religious education (RE) **Excellent**

School's vision

We are a caring Church Federation bringing together and serving many communities. We provide nurturing environments that facilitate learning for all. We encourage everybody to be confident, sociable and responsible citizens who achieve to the best of their ability in preparation for a fulfilling future.

Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives. (Proverbs 22:6)

Key findings

- In partnership with the Blue Hills Federation, innovative and collaborative leaders have established the Christian vision at Clunbury. This is known and lived out by all. Consequently, an inclusive, loving and respectful learning environment is evident, enabling all to flourish.
- Curricular and extra-curricular spiritual opportunities are implicit, providing valuable moments for pupils to ask big questions and explore spiritual issues. However, explicit planned opportunities for spiritual development are not consistently established.
- Leaders have created a nurturing culture that enhances the positive mental health of staff and pupils. There is further scope for evaluation, as the impact of the vision on the school's pastoral approach lacks clarity.
- Collective worship is invitational, inclusive and engaging, positively influencing the lives of pupils and staff, enabling them to thrive. Pupils enjoy being actively involved in their worship. Opportunities for them to further enhance worship through planning and leading are limited.
- Exemplary leadership of religious education (RE) has developed a richly challenging and inspiring curriculum. As a result, pupils demonstrate an excellent degree of religious literacy and make outstanding progress.

Areas for development

- Strategically plan and provide meaningful and intentional opportunities for spiritual growth throughout the curriculum, to enhance the flourishing of all.
- Ensure the school's pastoral approach is directly led by the Christian vision and promotes the positive wellbeing of all stakeholders.
- Develop opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship. This is to enable pupils to broaden their understanding of the Christian theology that underpins the school's vision.

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

Clunbury is a welcoming and inclusive Church school. It has a clear Christian vision that is shared by the Blue Hills Federation. The dedicated leadership team use the vision and its associated values to ensure love and nurture permeate throughout the school. The school vision drives leaders' strategic and day to day work to improve outcomes for pupils, enabling all to flourish. How leaders, adults and pupils can articulate the underpinning theology of the vision is less clear. Through monitoring visits and reviews of parent, staff and pupil surveys, leaders and governors know the school well. Consequently, school development priorities are accurately identified and leaders talk confidently about how the vision guides their strategic decisions.

The effective partnerships with the local church, diocese and community enhance life at Clunbury. They are rooted in the school's vision which shapes and improves relationships at all levels. The deep sense of family and togetherness is intrinsic, resulting in everyone supporting one another. Parents recognise how the vision creates the culture of care, which is evident. Staff are eager to develop professionally and benefit from the training provided by the Federation and the Diocese. As a result, highly effective adults have the knowledge and skills to support pupils in their learning and development. Staff at Clunbury flourish, as they feel confident and equipped, to teach pupils well.

Extra-curricular activities contribute to the aspirational curriculum design, supporting all pupils 'to achieve to the best of their ability'. Music, sport, engineering, singing in the choir and performing are part of the strategic plan to prepare pupils for a 'fulfilling future'. The school's tailored provision for the most vulnerable pupils, aspires to enable all pupils to flourish. Leaders accurately recognise that pupils in a small rural school benefit from opportunities to increase their awareness of diversity. Therefore, rich opportunities are woven into the curriculum to extend pupils cultural experiences. These include learning about inspirational people such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. Opportunities for spiritual growth are offered to pupils through stillness and reflective questions in worship. In addition, pupils explore spiritual questions through nature and the environment during forest school and on trips. However, there are few explicitly planned activities in the curriculum to promote spiritual development.

Collective worship is inclusive and invitational, with pupils being invited to greet everyone in their own unique way. Sign language is used throughout worship to ensure access for all. To enhance engagement, older pupils kindly and confidently support younger pupils to actively worship, reflect and pray. Pupils enjoy a variety of worship opportunities. These include worship led by the vicar, and 'open the book' volunteers telling Bible stories. Regular worship in church and special services punctuate the school year. These enable pupils to have a good understanding of Anglican traditions and the liturgical year. However, opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship are limited. Worship flows from the vision and supports pupils' biblical understanding. As a result, pupils have an extensive breadth of knowledge of Bible stories. They can clearly articulate how they impact on their own lives. A pupil spoke about the parable of The Lost Sheep explaining that if one of us got lost, God would always go back and get us. Adult and pupil participation in worship provides an invitational opportunity for them to pray and reflect. These opportunities contribute positively to the spiritual growth of all. Issues around injustice and inequality are regularly discussed with pupils. A parent stated, 'There's a culture at the school where my children can speak up about anything.' Consequently, pupils are supported to challenge injustice, inequality and the exploitation of the natural world. Examples include the eagerness of pupils to make donations for the local foodbank. Celebrating their engagement as agents for change, pupils were awarded the John Muir Award for being advocates for preventing climate change.

Loving, nurturing relationships, driven by the vision and its associated values are a strength of the school. They are underpinned by a deep understanding of dignity and respect where adults and pupils thrive. Teaching based around the values of love and respect; family and friends; trust and truth; perseverance and resilience, has created a positive learning environment. This results in 'confident, sociable and responsible' pupils who are gracious and respectful and take care of each other. School ambassadors articulate how everyone is supportive and encourages you to persevere. Parents also hold the Christian values in high regard. They say, 'values underpin the way children relate to one another and that spreads out into the community.'

To enable all to flourish, a trained mental health first aider supports both pupils and adults across the school. Inspired by the ambitious vision, leaders ensure staff have time to link with other schools across the federation. This develops staff expertise, including staff understanding about the link between the Christian vision and pupils' flourishing in learning. Governors monitor the way that the vision supports good mental health of adults and pupils. However, the way this ensures a clear and strategic pastoral approach is not fully evident.

Exemplary RE teaching and learning is skilfully developed by the expertise of the innovative and extremely well informed RE leader. Pupils are exceptionally enthusiastic about the subject and speak eloquently about how they apply their learning from Bible stories to their daily lives. They are eager to discuss an extensive range of religions and how Christians worship around the world. Pupils articulate their passion that it is important to understand religions, worldviews and what people think, so respect flourishes globally. The exemplary RE curriculum creatively combines the Shropshire syllabus with effective use of the Understanding Christianity resource. As a result, pupils demonstrate a remarkable depth of knowledge about worldviews, different religions and Christianity as a global faith. The RE leader contributes to the work of the diocese and the local authority. She has developed an assessment tool that has been shared widely with colleagues. The vision 'achieve to the best of their ability' is embedded in the life of the school. It drives the passion of the RE leader to share and develop others, beyond Clunbury and the federation, so they flourish. Governors monitor the impact of the RE curriculum to ensure all pupils, including those with additional needs, make excellent progress.

The vision in action is at the heart of Clunbury. 'Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives' is understood by all. Stakeholders are committed to ensuring the vision is at the heart of their flourishing community, equipping everyone with the tools they need to live a fulfilling future.



The effectiveness of RE is

Excellent

Inspirational teaching, guided by an ambitious curriculum and expert leader, ensures all thrive in RE. Pupils demonstrate an exceptional depth of biblical knowledge and an outstanding breadth of religious literacy. Assessment is robust and powerfully developmental. As a result, it informs teachers of next steps and accelerates pupil progress, within a rich culture of learning. The deeply relevant RE curriculum enables all pupils, including those identified as vulnerable or with additional educational needs to flourish.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	28 September 2022	URN	123451
Date of previous inspection	7 May 2015		
School status	Voluntary Aided	NOR	62
Name of Multi Academy Trust or Federation	Blue Hills Federation		
Diocese / Methodist Circuit	Hereford		
Headteacher	Anna Cook		
Proportion of pupils deemed to be disadvantaged	Below National Average		
Proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	Above National Average		
Additional significant information (if needed)	The school has been through a turbulent time. Consequently, in September 2017 they amalgamated with two other local church schools to form the Blue Hills Federation. An executive headteacher was appointed to lead the three schools.		
Inspector's name	Beverley Roberts	No.	2122