



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Ruishton Church of England Primary School	
Address	Newlands Road, Ruishton, Taunton, TA3 5JZ

School vision

As a Christian school, our values and ethos place children at our hearts, enabling them to feel safe, nurtured, respected and included within our community. We celebrate diversity, develop resilience and build trust in one another. Together we inspire everyone to achieve and have faith for a better tomorrow and a fulfilling future ahead.

'For I know the plans I have for you...Plans to give you hope and a future' Jeremiah 29:11

School strengths

- The school's theologically rooted Christian vision drives all that the school does, enabling all to flourish.
- The school's partnership with the local church and parish community, supports pupils in their learning and personal development.
- The school's reciprocal partnership with the Oak Partnership Trust is supportive and challenging. It enables the school to realise its Christian vision to the benefit of all.
- Inspired by their vision, provision for pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and for those who are vulnerable, is extremely good. The school is passionate about the inclusion of all who want to learn there.
- The school has a strong culture of mutual respect in line with their vision, and they celebrate diversity. They work together to enable all to flourish.

Areas for development

- Develop opportunities for prayer and reflection during the school day and across the school site, to enable pupils to explore their personal spirituality.
- Strengthen pupil voice and experience to enable pupils to become agents of change, locally, nationally and globally.

Inspection findings

Ruishton Church of England Primary School's Christian vision is lived out daily by adults and children. This firmly held vision and accompanying values, underpin all they do. The current focus on 'trust' creates an atmosphere of cooperation across the school and encourages the acceptance of each other's differences. The Oak Partnership Trust and school enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship and complementary visions. The trust and diocese challenge and support the school in its work. As a result, the school successfully includes all pupils and offers them hope for the future. Trust leaders and governors know the school well and rigorously monitor it as a Church school. They are very much part of school life.

The school's vision shapes its broad and balanced curriculum offer. Opportunities within the curriculum for pupils to develop spiritually, are both planned and instigated by pupils' questioning. The extensive school grounds enable forest school and outdoor learning. Here pupils explore God's living world. Gardening and cooking what they grow, pupils' learning is enriched by a closeness to nature. Awe and wonder moments such as studying a ladybird in the grass, abound, and Reception pupils enjoy listening walks. Pupils are known as individuals and their learning needs identified and met. The vision underpins a highly inclusive environment. All pupils are welcome here. A wide range of interventions and alternative provision, on and off site, are in place. Highly effective on-site provision includes a safe space in the Lodge, and bespoke provision in the Quad where pupils pursue a carousel of activities tailored to their needs. The special educational needs and disability coordinator monitors and reviews the impact of all interventions half termly. She and her team are determined to enable all pupils to access a fulfilling future in line with the vision. Positive relationships between staff, pupils and parents are key to the success of inclusion at Ruishton. Wrap around care is offered both before and after school by dedicated staff. A wide range of extra-curricular clubs based on pupil interests enriches the school's curriculum offer.

Daily collective worship is central to school life. It is successfully planned on a termly rotation of Christian values. The two-year cycle supports a programme of Christian values across the school. A range of leaders, including the local vicar, deliver collective worship that is accessible to all pupils. Stories of Jesus are known by pupils, and they aim to behave like the Good Samaritan. The school successfully uses the 'windows, mirrors, doors' approach to supporting pupils' development of personal spirituality. This encourages pupils to reflect on their own beliefs. However, there are insufficient opportunities outside collective worship for pupils to pray or reflect. The use of prayer during the day varies between classes. The small reflection areas in classrooms are little used and the provision of quiet areas indoors or outside, is limited. This means that pupils wishing to have personal reflection time, have few opportunities during the day. However, in leading worship in school and in church, pupils consider their own thoughts and beliefs. They select theme and content for their worship, and present to peers and families who are invited to attend. Pupils are well supported in doing this by members of the local parish church.

In line with the school's vision, adults and pupils have a sense of belonging to an ambitious and happy school. This enables them all to flourish. Ensuring good mental health and wellbeing for all is important to leaders. Staff workload is protected and access to professional and emotional support is offered. The school behaviour policy is based upon encouraging pupils to understand their own behaviour which is a skill for life. Pupils who make poor behaviour choices are invited to reflect on their actions. Weekly awards are given by pupils to each other, for demonstrating the school values and for kindness. These leaf awards, symbolising the Oak Partnership Trust tree leaves, are highly valued by recipients. Pupils who are challenged by life in school are well supported at Ruishton. The school building is mostly decorated in natural colours and woodland decoration to encourage a calm atmosphere. Pupils understand how to help themselves and each other whilst adults are trained in supporting positive pupil behaviour. Staff are also trauma trained to better support pupils

and families in difficult times. This they do very successfully going the extra mile to help them. This is much appreciated by the parent community.

Links between St George’s Church and the school are strong. Pupils attend ‘Coffee Stop,’ which is run by parishioners, in the village hall. Here pupils socialise with mixed generations of people from the village. Discussion of topics such as ‘how God answers prayer,’ add breadth to pupils’ learning and social skills. Collective worship has inspired pupils to undertake social action locally, supporting the local food bank at harvest time, and raising money for national charities. However, pupils are keen to have more opportunities to make their voices heard and become agents of change. They are moved by global issues in the news, and where they see injustice, want to respond.

The RE curriculum (known as Faith and Beliefs in the Oak Partnership Trust) is inspired by the school’s vision. It is based upon the locally agreed syllabus and ‘Understanding Christianity’ resource but has been redesigned to suit the needs of pupils at this school and across the trust. The subject is well led by a senior teacher who is also RE lead across the trust. RE is well-sequenced and cyclical in nature supporting growth in subject knowledge and skills. RE is an important part of the school curriculum and is enjoyed and valued. It covers a range of religions as well as Christianity and this broadens pupils’ horizons. Staff delivering this subject are well trained. Lessons include much debate and reflection with big questions such as ‘what is God?’ posed in both RE and collective worship.

The inspection findings indicate that Ruishton Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	16 October 2023	URN	146717
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	191
Diocese	Bath & Wells		
MAT/Federation	The Oak Partnership Trust		
Headteacher	Hannah Collier		
Chair	Lee Mullen		
Inspector	Alison Appleyard	No.	877