

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Newtown Church of England Primary School

Address	Queen's Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 1JD			
Date of inspection	3 May 2019	Status of school	VC Primary	
Diocese / Methodist District	Portsmouth	URN	116336	

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

School context

Newtown is a primary school with 353 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages. Since the last inspection the headteacher and leadership team are new to their posts and there has been a large turnover of teaching staff. The co-chairs of the governing body are also new to their post. A new area known as 'The Lodge' has been developed to provide behaviour intervention for specific pupils.

The school's Christian vision

At Newtown C of E Primary School, our motto is strengthened by our Christian ethos values of Love, Courage and Friendship through which we aim to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our children, helping them to develop an understanding of positive relationships, have courage to stand up for what is right and embrace one another's differences.

Key findings

- The dedicated leadership of the headteacher and her passion in supporting all pupils and adults, aided by her leadership team and the governors, enables pupils and adults to flourish within this Christian school.
- Pupils, especially those who are most vulnerable, benefit from being in a safe and happy environment where they develop a love of learning and for each other alongside friendship and courage.
- Pupils have a good understanding of the school's Christian values and can explain the difference these make to their actions and behaviour.
- The wellbeing of staff, the importance placed upon this, and the care of pupils is particularly strong, leading to a culture in the school of everyone working to be the very best they can be.
- RE and collective worship provide pupils with a safe place where there are opportunities to engage and respond to the big questions of life. They are given time to reflect, to ask questions and arrive at their own decisions.

Areas for development

- Continue developing pupils' understanding of what it is to be a global citizen and increase their knowledge of global issues.
- Further develop systems for assessing RE to allow teachers to gauge progress and attainment in this subject, therefore enabling pupils to be supported and challenged.
- Extend opportunities for pupils' personal spiritual engagement by enhancing the environment in areas both inside and outside of the school building.

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

The school's new leadership team have worked extremely hard to ensure that the pupils are well educated in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. This journey has involved re-visiting the school's vision so that it reflects the school's local context. New Christian values, which staff, pupils, governors and parents contributed to, have been established. These three values are now central to the school's ethos and are supporting pupils and adults in their everyday life, being understood and referred to throughout the day in a variety of situations. The school's new learning behaviours support the vision and values, which together are enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

The school and the church are now working closely together, having established a mutually beneficial partnership. The introduction of the prayer spaces project, housed in Christ Church once a term, is providing an innovative way to engage pupils with Christian traditions, giving them access to the church and supporting their spiritual journey. The church congregation, including governors, provide the resources and deliver the workshops. Pupils speak with great enthusiasm about these events. The vicar regularly leads Key Stage collective worship and supports work in the classroom, including RE lessons. Parents are attending the school's services in the church in increasingly greater numbers. Since the last inspection, governors have established clear procedures for monitoring and evaluating the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church school. They challenge and support the headteacher and senior leadership team and are helping to aid the school's improvement.

The leadership team should be praised for their determination that pupils should have access to an appropriate and exciting curriculum, which is well taught. Every effort is made to support pupils, with rigorous action plans being implemented and the curriculum altered in response to pupils' needs. There is a clear understanding that every child is a unique individual. Assessments show that the school is close to national averages in progress statistics. Themed days and weeks provide additional exciting lessons which enthuse pupils and provide them with life experiences. Pupils are engaged in lessons and confidently ask questions and respond with considered points of view. The school has a clear understanding of spirituality which adults and pupils are able to discuss.

Pupils say they are pleased to support both local and national charities such as Children In Need and the School Council often lead activities for these events. Pupils challenge and question what they know is not right and stand up for what they believe. They show they are able to relate to others less fortunate than they are and look for ways they can support others. They have a growing awareness of the exploitation of the natural world and are able to discuss making alterations to the way they live. A Year 3 girl explained, "If everyone in this school stopped using single use plastic it could start to make a difference and then hopefully more people would stop." A Year 6 class is sponsoring a boy in Kenya and the pupils from the class speak eloquently about the difference it is making for him and the letters they exchange. The school's leadership are aware of the need to encourage pupils from across the school to think globally and to extend pupils' understanding of the lives of children in other parts of the world.

In response to the needs of a significant number of pupils the school have established 'The Lodge' as a safe space to provide behaviour intervention for specific pupils. During the last two years, over sixty pupils have been supported. This facility, along with a clear behaviour policy, the introduction of six learning behaviours, staff training and support programmes, has resulted in pupils behaving well both in the classrooms and during break times. The school's leaders ensure that sufficient staff are available in school and that there are structured activities for pupils to engage in meaningful play on the playground. Pupils are polite, display good manners and can listen attentively to others. The school's values are used by everyone when disagreements occur and pupils say that these help them when considering forgiveness and reconciliation. Attendance and exclusion figures are improving due to the procedures and support that have been established. It is clear that the Christian ethos of the school, established through the vision and values, has played a significant role in supporting pupils and their families. Pupils, parents and staff speak very positively of the way in which they are listened to when expressing their views and concerns. The package of support that is in place for the well-being of all staff is beyond what might be expected and is a clear indication of how the school's Christian distinctiveness can be seen.

There is an inclusive culture within the school where all members of the school community are respected as

individuals. Displays throughout the school celebrate diversity and difference. The school uses a range of books and characters to help support aspects of the curriculum which explore difference. Pupils and parents speak of being accepted for who they are. Themed weeks on areas such as anti-bullying help to make pupils more aware. Pupils say that incidents of bullying are rare and are dealt with quickly if they occur.

Great value is placed on the importance of collective worship, with pupils assembling respectfully in the hall for whole school worship. This typically begins with Christian greetings being exchanged, candles from each class being presented and pupils saying a school prayer together as the candles, displaying the words Love, Courage and Friendship, are lit. Music and singing are regarded as important elements and pupils are enthusiastic to read or act in support of the worship theme. The teachings of Jesus and Bible stories are used to reflect upon the school's Christian vision and values and to relate them all to the lives of pupils. Pupils' involvement with leading aspects of worship is increasing and during worship pupils are able to write prayers which they can read aloud. Pupils and adults speak of the impact worship can have on their everyday lives and how they reflect on these messages during the day.

The new RE leader, with the support of the diocese, has reorganised the planning of this subject. She has led staff training and provides help to teachers in delivering units of work. Across the school RE is taught in blocks of lessons so that pupils are able to maintain and deepen their understanding. New resources have helped teachers become more confident in teaching this subject as well as in aiding pupils to develop their understanding of a range of religions and viewpoints. Assessment of RE is not yet sufficient to enable teachers to have a clear understanding of the progress pupils make. The school meet their statutory obligations for RE and collective worship.

Headteacher	Emma Howlett
Inspector's name and number	Sally Jenkins 913