

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Burton Bradstock Church of England Voluntary Controlled School

Vision

'Do Justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God' Micah 6:8

Burton Bradstock Church of England Voluntary Controlled School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The Christian vision of 'Do Justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God' (Micah 6:8) is lived out at Burton Bradstock. This enables pupils and adults to flourish.
- As a result of the vision, there is a strong ethos of care and kindness in the school. Leaders ensure that pupil and adult wellbeing is nurtured and protected. The strong partnerships with the church and local community enhance this, leading to a happy and thriving school culture.
- The school supports all pupils very well. This includes pupils who are identified as vulnerable or who have special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND). This enables them to experience a strong sense of success and belonging.
- The vision drives the school's focus on core Christian values, and justice, kindness and humility. Consequently, pupils acquire awareness and respect for difference and ensure that others are treated with equity, friendship and love.
- Initio Learning Trust enhances the Christian life of the school. They achieve this through robust monitoring and evaluation systems, and through investment in training and development of staff.

Development Points

- Enhance pupils' understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews in RE. This is to enable pupils to develop a better understanding of the diversity of ways in which people practise their beliefs.
- Embed recent changes to the RE curriculum. This is to support pupils to remember their learning.
- Develop opportunities for spiritual growth, so that pupils are able to better articulate the impact of these experiences within curriculum activities.



Inspection Findings

The school's Christian vision of 'Do Justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God' (Micah 6:8), is lived out at Burton Bradstock school. Pupils are inspired to practise the school values of hope, respect, friendship, love, courage and happiness. Leaders, including those responsible for governance, know the school very well. Consequently, they carefully plan school development activities to ensure that pupils and adults are able to flourish. The strong support of the school chaplaincy team, including the local rector, enhances the impact of the vision. They ensure the school community has a shared understanding of the Christian vision and values. The trust provides robust support and challenge for the development of the Christian vision through regular monitoring and peer reviews. Collaboration with the Diocese of Salisbury, benefits school and trust leaders through high quality professional development and support.

The community lives together well with dignity, respect and kindness, as a result of the school's Christian vision. Leaders prioritise the wellbeing of pupils and adults. Pupils feel safe and are happy in school. Adults enable them to flourish academically and holistically together. Incidents of bullying or discrimination are rare. When pupils experience difficulties, they receive appropriate support and advice from staff. For example, pupils receive extra help for their mental health, when required. Parents value the high level of care their children receive. Adults support one another really well. They achieve this through living out the vision together. Staff also benefit from high quality professional development. If a member of staff is facing a challenge, leaders provide extra resources or time to help ease the load. In addition to this, the trust provides policies, training and support to enable the flourishing of its pupils and adults.

Justice is central to the vision at Burton Bradstock, resulting in pupils taking responsibility for others. Pupils learn about equity and demonstrate respect, kindness and understanding. They show care for creation through recycling and looking after their classroom equipment. Members of the school council carefully consider which charities they will support, thinking about the needs of the school community. Pupils volunteer for responsibilities such as collective worship leaders and play leaders. Older pupils take responsibility for helping the younger pupils at break times. The youngest pupils persuaded their headteacher to rescue two guinea pigs, and they now take responsibility for caring for these. The school has a commitment to children's rights, and this creates an active culture of justice and responsibility.

Daily collective worship effectively enhances the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. It is well designed. Using a variety of approaches, pupils acquire a richer understanding of the school vision and values. This inspires them to demonstrate these in their lives. For example, children show kindness to family members and peers, especially when they recognise others need support. Worship is inclusive. Pupils and adults benefit from the ability to reflect in stillness and in prayer. Joyous singing of songs and hymns provide additional opportunities for pupils and adults to develop their spiritual awareness. The regular 'Open the Book' sessions are particularly appreciated as these enable pupils to engage with Bible stories actively. Year 5 and 6 lead a weekly worship based on world events. This develops a sense of belonging to a world-wide community. The whole community comes together each week to celebrate the achievements of the pupils. The effectiveness of worship is enhanced by the strong support of the rector, who leads worship fortnightly. The chaplaincy team meet regularly to plan worshipping opportunities both in school and in church. For example, they are currently creating an 'Experience Easter' event with pupils. Such activities enrich the pupils' spiritual development enabling them to explore their relationships with others and the divine.



The curriculum is designed with the Christian vision in mind. In addition to the planned subjects, pupils are also able to enjoy a number of clubs and enrichment activities. The school has recently opened an after-school club to offer additional support to pupils and families. The community extends the curricular offer to pupils, through providing access to a range of resources in the locality. Forest school and 'welly walks' around the village develop children's relationships with others. They also provide increased opportunities to be aware of and enjoy the wonders of creation. The use of the church enhances RE lessons by enabling pupils to deepen their understanding about places of worship and Christian ritual. A twice annual 'coffee stop' allows pupils to practise justice, kindness and humility, whilst serving members of the local community. The school curriculum is enhanced with volunteer support from parents, governors, members of the church congregation and the school pastor. The vision inspires leaders and teachers to shape learning to enable the most vulnerable to flourish. The academy trust has recently supported leaders to develop spirituality within the curriculum. As a result, adults now have an improved shared understanding of spiritual development. They have identified ways in which they can develop spirituality across the curriculum. However, this is still in the early stages of implementation. Consequently, pupils do not have the language to be able to express their own understanding of spirituality.

RE is given a high profile and is treated as a core subject. School leaders prioritise professional development and resources to ensure that teachers are well equipped to teach the subject. Units of work are designed so that the pupils have more opportunities to revisit religions and festivals to aid retention of knowledge. Pupils enjoy learning in RE lessons, however they do not consistently remember the knowledge that they have learned. The diocese has recently provided help and advice to support the school in adapting the syllabus to reflect the local context. The curriculum is appropriately balanced between a range of religions and worldviews. However, updates to the local syllabus are not embedded into the RE curriculum. As a result, pupils have a limited understanding of the variety of ways belief impacts on daily life.

Information

Address	Church Street, Burton Bradstock, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4QS		
Date	25 March 2025	URN	142692
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	79 (101 including nursery)
Diocese/District	Salisbury		
MAT/Federation	Initio Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Adam Gough		
Chair of Governors	Pat Lewis-Badgett		
Chair of Trust	Debbie Fleming		
Inspector	Claire Platt		