

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

| St James Church of England VC Primary School, Southampton   |   |
|---|---|
| Address   | Moorgreen Road, West End, Southampton, SO30 3EG |
| School vision   |   |
| <p>Be strong and courageous and do it!<br/>1 Chronicles 28:20</p> <p>At Saint James we accept challenges, take risks and work to make positive changes in ourselves and our community.</p> <p>Focusing on building resilience and compassionate relationships allows everyone to flourish. Using our Christian values to guide us, we develop skills to navigate rough seas and transform our world.</p>  |   |
| School strengths  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Saint James, the deeply rooted Christian vision and values drive school development. Pupils and adults flourish as a result of the exceptional dedication to love, respect and courage.</li> <li>• The relentless commitment to love is evident in its daily practices. The purposeful and positive culture established by school leaders has a transformative impact.</li> <li>• The curriculum is impressively shaped by the Christian vision and values. Pupils naturally engage in moments of reflection within and beyond collective worship. Opportunities for reflection are well-planned and promoted, enabling pupils and adults to spiritually flourish.</li> <li>• Engaging and impactful acts of collective worship reflect Anglican traditions and deepen the pupils understanding of the Christian vision. Time to pause and reflect is embedded and a valued aspect of these joyous occasions.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is afforded a high priority and pupils enjoy the enriching provision. Pupils value RE. The curriculum is highly stimulating and staff show deep knowledge and expertise.</li> </ul> |   |
| Areas for development   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower pupils to independently initiate and lead on social action projects. This is so that pupils are effective and courageous agents of change, driven by their voice and passion for justice.</li> </ul>   |   |
| Inspection findings   |   |
| <p>The Christian vision of Saint James 'be strong and courageous and just do it', propels the school's development. This ethos is genuinely reflected in the school's three Christian values: love, respect, and courage. The school vision statement and core values are rooted in Bible teaching, forming the foundations of the school. School leaders, including governors, demonstrate a steadfast dedication to these values, particularly love. Their empathetic leadership improves opportunities for pupils and</p>  |   |

adults. The story of Saint James is meaningfully explored by adults and pupils. The scallop shell is a well understood part of the school badge and pupils study the Saint James' pilgrimage. This work fosters a deep connection with the school's identity and ensures a sense of belonging among pupils and adults.

The relentless commitment to love creates a deeply embedded culture where pupils and adults feel valued, respected and cared for. This nurturing environment benefits pupils who enjoy their education and build positive relationships. As a result, pupils are happy, friendly and look out for one another. They grow in confidence and resilience. The staff also thrive because of the school's vision and values. Due to high-quality opportunities for professional learning, staff flourish professionally. They flourish spiritually because of their positive engagement with collective worship, moments of prayer and reflection. As a result of the vision, there are numerous enriching and innovative strategies in place to help families. Universal yet impactful support is promoted through the online 'pinboard of support' and the school led parenting programme. Leaders ensure more personalised help is also available. The school is a beacon of hope for those experiencing difficult times. To the school this seems utterly normal, yet to those who experience the care provided, it is deeply transformational.

The respectful and loving school culture inspires pupils to speak and act against injustice. They enthusiastically support charitable work and recognise how they have enabled change. Letters of gratitude from sponsored children in Rwanda motivate the Christian values team to further fundraising efforts. With staff encouragement, pupils learn to be strong, courageous and do something. Consequently, pupils in Year 6 raised awareness of climate change within and outside the school. This work deepened the pupils' understanding of justice and responsibility. However, as much of this work is supported by adults, the opportunity for pupils to be independent agents of change is less developed.

School leaders, including governors, ground their discussions, decision making and actions in the vision and values. Their commitment to making pupils and adults feel valued and respected steers their efforts. Leaders' monitoring and evaluation leads to meaningful changes, they embody the principle of 'being strong and courageous'. The renewed strategy for supporting special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) practices exemplifies this. Additional development in catering, sports day, residential trips and staff wellbeing further illustrate this approach. Leaders and parents readily acknowledge the positive impact of prioritising the vision. As a result, relationships are stronger, and a deeper sense of inclusion is lived out. Leaders' monitoring and evaluation leads to meaningful changes. This is seen in the enriching of spirituality and development of RE, where the strong relationship with the Diocese has proved beneficial.

The Christian vision and values shape the Saint James curriculum. Love, respect and courage are thoughtfully woven throughout all curriculum planning and inspire the approach to the extra-curricular offer. Trips such as the science visit to a planetarium, fosters learning and an appreciation of the natural world. Community projects such as knitting club promote courage and love, offering challenges and a platform to be kind to others. Embedded in the curriculum is the spiritual language of self, others, beauty and beyond. This is thoughtfully promoted and planned. The language is used effectively by pupils and staff and enables deep reflection. Pupils enjoy the time to pause, think deeply and understand how such reflection contributes to personal growth. The impressively developed spiritual garden and labyrinth further enhance the opportunity for spiritual flourishing. These intentionally designed spaces impact pupils greatly. Pupils see these as places of peace and stillness that encourage reflection and feeling calm. As a result, pupils think differently and grow a deeper awareness of themselves and others.

Collective worship brings to life the school vision and values. The daily acts of worship are

thoughtfully planned and led with expertise and enthusiasm. Pupils participate in discussions with others and time is purposefully planned for quiet self-reflection. They enjoy the time to pause and ponder on the big questions presented in worship. Using the school's reflective language, pupils connect with questions and stories meaningfully which further promotes their spiritual growth. Adults recognise the positive impact worship has on them. One staff member explaining, 'when I can't get to church collective worship stands in the gap'. Including worship themes, stories, and Bible verses in newsletters bridges the connection for parents. This connection is deepened through invitations to church events and the worship songs that pupils sing naturally.

Saint James is a large primary school where leaders ensure there is a strong sense of community. Belonging is reinforced during collective worship as individual class candles come together on the worship table. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of worship leads to improvements. In response to pupil feedback, audio and visual resources have been improved to create a greater feeling of togetherness in the school hall. Enthusiastic and collaborative church partnerships deepen collective worship. They enrich the planning of worship and strengthen the engagement with singing. Both pupils and staff value singing songs of praise, this is a much-loved weekly event.

RE enjoys a high profile and pupils find the subject engaging. They participate actively and recognise the value of learning about religions and worldviews. Pupils identify RE as a time for thinking, challenge and exploring the beliefs of a range of world religions. Their development is further enriched by the creative and inclusive methods used by staff. In addition to discussions and art activities, religious meals are recreated and explored to stimulate interest. Teachers create a safe environment where reflective discussions and differing viewpoints are explored. Classrooms are enriched by RE displays and artwork which enhances learning. This enables pupils to connect with Christian concepts such as incarnation and salvation and talk about these with confidence.

Pupil learning in RE is aided by a thoughtfully constructed and stimulating curriculum. Leaders ensure the key vocabulary, knowledge and skills are well-understood. Due to effective professional development, staff are confident and knowledgeable. Their creative approaches and skilled teaching, enables pupils of all abilities flourish in RE.

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

| Information     |                      |                |        |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|--------|
| Inspection date | 3 July 2024          | URN            | 116331 |
| VC/VA/Academy   | Voluntary controlled | Pupils on roll | 590    |
| Diocese         | Winchester           |                |        |
| MAT/Federation  |                      |                |        |
| Headteacher     | Michelle Marsh       |                |        |
| Chair           | Richard Gomer        |                |        |
| Inspector       | Stephen Cowdery      | No.            | 2138   |