

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Birdham Church of England Primary School

Vision

Love Learning – Love Our World – Love Each Other.

God has given you gifts...use them well to serve one another.

1 Peter 4:10

Birdham Church of England 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.

Notable Strengths

- Birdham Church of England Primary School is an inclusive and welcoming school community. Its Christian vision 'love each other' is authentically lived. Consequently, it shapes relationships, nurtures a strong sense of belonging and enables adults and pupils to flourish.
- Leaders understanding of the vision's words to 'love our world' is woven throughout the curriculum and school life. It inspires pupils to value and care for God's world.
- School leaders, including governors, have a strong understanding of the school's Christian vision. They use it purposefully to shape policy, practice and strategic improvement. As a result, it enhances the Christian foundation of the school in the way that it is applied throughout the day.
- The final section of the vision 'love learning' drives curriculum development. This ensures that it is creative and engaging, supporting pupils to flourish.

Development Points

- Redesign and strengthen the religious education (RE) curriculum so that it has greater academic rigour. This is to ensure pupils develop secure knowledge and vocabulary, critical enquiry skills and a deeper understanding of a range of religions and worldviews.
- Establish greater opportunities within collective worship for moments of stillness. This is to support the spiritual flourishing of pupils and staff.
- Deepen and implement the school's agreed understanding of spirituality. This is to enable staff to intentionally plan for opportunities across the curriculum to support the spiritual flourishing of pupils.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

School leaders demonstrate a clear and deeply embedded understanding of the school's Christian vision, 'love learning, love our world, love each other.' Rooted in the biblical teaching of 1 Peter 4:10, the vision inspires them to use their God-given gifts to serve others. This, in turn, encourages other members of the school community to do the same. Consequently, Birdham Church of England Primary School provides an inclusive and welcoming environment where the school's vision to 'love each other' is authentically lived. This is expressed through the nine Christian values that make up the Birdham charter. These values help to shape behaviour expectations across the school. The impact of this is particularly evident in Fantastic Friday worship when the application of Christian values throughout the week is celebrated. School leaders, including governors, use the vision purposefully to shape policy, practice and school improvement. Governors maintain a visible presence within the life of the school and engage in a range of monitoring activities, such as attending collective worship. As a result, they are beginning to grow an understanding of the vision's impact upon pupils.

Vision and Curriculum

'Love learning' is a central element of Birdham's vision. It provides a clear foundation for curriculum development. As a result, pupils enjoy a rich and engaging curriculum that nurtures curiosity and a love of learning, enabling them to flourish. The school's outdoor swimming pool and wildlife area are used to enrich learning through meaningful first-hand experiences. 'Birdham's bridges' further enhance the curriculum by broadening pupils' horizons through experiences beyond their local community. This includes, for example, participating in the biennial Young Voices event at the London O2. School leaders work hard to meet the needs of the community it serves. Tailored support and adapted provision support pupils, including those with additional needs, to develop and grow. School leaders have established a shared approach to support the spiritual flourishing of pupils. However, its implementation remains at an early stage of development and spiritual development is not intentionally planned for across the curriculum. As a result, there are missed opportunities for pupils to engage in meaningful moments of reflection and deeper thinking.

Worship and Spirituality

Pupils value coming together for collective worship and participate enthusiastically, particularly through signing the welcome together with a wide range of worship songs. However, staff engagement with opportunities for their spiritual development, including worship, is more limited. Regular opportunities for pupils to participate in prayer during worship and throughout the school day are made available. The Birdham school prayer reinforces the school's vision, encouraging pupils to care for one another and for God's world. However, while prayer is an established and important aspect of school life, opportunities for pupils and adults to experience stillness and reflect deeply are less well developed. As a result, collective worship does not consistently model the school's shared approach to spirituality, and opportunities to nurture spiritual development are missed. The school community enjoys a positive partnership with St James's church and welcomes support from the rector who regularly leads worship in school. Parents and carers value the opportunity to join the school community for termly church services held at St James'. They appreciate the sense of belonging that these occasions provide.

Vision and School Culture

Birdham Church of England Primary School is a highly inclusive and welcoming community where every member is known, valued and supported to flourish. The school's Christian vision, 'love each other' is deeply embedded in daily life and shapes relationships, decision-making and behaviour. It fosters a culture of kindness, respect and belonging in which all are encouraged to thrive. As a result, pupils and adults demonstrate kindness and care for one another. This actively contributes to a compassionate school community where people feel included and



valued. This positive culture extends beyond the classroom. Parents appreciate opportunities to gather informally for tea, coffee and cake on the 'Birdham bus', which further strengthens relationships. The vision to 'love learning' drives school leaders and staff to work effectively in supporting pupils with additional needs. For example, in conjunction with the local authority, thoughtful and bespoke strategies are implemented to support pupils in attending school regularly. This enables them to access and engage fully in their learning. Leaders place a high priority on the wellbeing of both adults and pupils. Staff are provided with training and guidance to support their ongoing development. Access to services such as counselling also are available to support their mental health and wellbeing.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

'Love our world' shapes the bespoke eco-curriculum that is thoughtfully woven throughout the school's wider curriculum. Pupils benefit from experiences such as growing their own fruit and vegetables, recycling and promoting sustainable lifestyle choices. This develops their understanding of their role in caring for God's creation. This enables them to recognise their responsibility as stewards of the environment. Opportunities for educational visits further deepen this understanding by enabling pupils to put their learning into action. For example, litter-picking at Bracklesham Bay and participation in a peaceful protest about water pollution in Chichester helps them to care for their environment. These activities also support pupils to develop their understanding of justice. Through the school's partnership with a charity, pupils raise funds to sponsor a child in Togo. This develops their awareness of the needs of people beyond their own community. It helps them to learn how their actions can make a positive difference. However, most opportunities to respond to issues of justice are generally initiated by adults rather than by pupils themselves.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to learn about a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. It teaches them the importance of listening respectfully to different viewpoints. As a result, pupils learn to show respect to those with different beliefs and perspectives. However, the sequencing of learning is not consistently secure across the school. Consequently, it does not always build upon previous knowledge and understanding. Curriculum planning does not sufficiently identify the essential knowledge and key vocabulary needed to deepen pupils' understanding and support progression in their learning. The RE leader benefits from effective training and guidance provided by the diocese. Opportunities to share this expertise and build the knowledge and confidence of the wider staff team are not fully utilised.

Information

Address	Crooked Lane, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7HB		
Date	29 June 2026	URN	125972
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	115
Diocese	Chichester		
Headteacher	Mark Mccadden		
Chair of Governors	Chris Watson		
Inspector	Jayne Pavlou		