

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

### St John The Baptist Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

'Creating new possibilities for our future, with compassion in our hearts and courage on our journey'.

St John The Baptist 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

- Underpinned by the school's Christian vision and values, staff and governors are united in their high aspirations for pupils. This means that individual needs are met with kindness and understanding.
- Underpinned by Bible verse, the school's value of compassion is at the heart of school life. It drives decision making and underpins relationships, resulting in a deeply caring and inclusive school community.
- Warm, nurturing relationships shape the school. As a result, pupils and adults feel a sense of belonging within a safe and welcoming environment.
- Enriched by strong partnerships within the church and wider community, personalised support enables pupils and adults to flourish. Thoughtful initiatives, rooted in love, enhance personal growth.
- Collective worship promotes deep engagement with the school's Christian vision and values. Enriched by worship songs and spiritual reflection, pupils are enthusiastic to live out their values.

#### Development Points

- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the school's Christian vision across all aspects of school life. This is to embed its impact and inspire ongoing developments.
- Establish the school's values and approach to spirituality consistently throughout the curriculum. This is so that pupils are given rich opportunities for their spiritual flourishing.
- Review the religious education (RE) curriculum in order to enrich pupils' understanding of Christianity as a global faith and broaden their knowledge of world religions.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

By living out its school's vision, St John The Baptist School extends a warm embrace. It is a place of safety, in which people feel belonging. The school's Christian vision, expressed by the values of compassion, courage and creativity, inspires the actions of pupils and adults. Underpinned by Bible verses and shaped by voices from across the community, the school's values hold special meaning. They have held the school together in difficult times and they offer ongoing hope for the future. Entwined in decision making, the values are wholeheartedly understood and modelled. They provide loving guidance and inspiration. One pupil, for example, described their impact as, 'how we can become better people'. This commitment to personalised growth is tangible across the life of the school. Heartfelt aspirations, rooted in the vision, are upheld by leaders and governors. As a result, pupils and adults are enabled to flourish within a caring and understanding environment. In a period when the vision and values are being embedded, the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the Christian vision in action are underdeveloped.

### Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum is a heartfelt expression of the school's vision. This means that staff are creative in their curriculum design and courageous in their compassionate provision. Pupil needs are met with innovation and commitment. Because the school's values are owned, pupils recognise and express them within their work and learning. Furthermore, curriculum texts are meaningfully aligned, enabling pupils to gain a deeper and broader understanding of their values lived out. Enriched by training from the diocese, the school has established a shared language for spirituality. This approach, enhanced by classroom reflection areas, supports pupils in pausing and thinking. However, a lack of consistency in planning for spirituality within the curriculum results in missed opportunities for spiritual growth. The curriculum is enriched by school trips, community partnerships and extra-curricular activities. This provision enables pupils to flourish as compassionate, courageous and creative individuals. A particularly meaningful topic involves a local area visit, in which pupils connect with the roots of their school as a Church school.

### Worship and Spirituality

The school's prayer is sincere and meaningful. It brings people together as a community. Shaped by pupil voice, this recent initiative is testament to the visionary leadership of the school. This vision is enriched by a faithful partnership with local churches. Worship planning is detailed and thoughtful, enabling key themes to be explored throughout the week. Pupils and adults value the meaningful links that are made between Bible stories, song choices and prayer, providing different ways of connecting to worship themes. Biblical content, combined with other real-life events, enhance pupils' understanding of their values. Warm relationships between pupils and adults means that worship is wholly inclusive. Furthermore, class worship allows for a more personalised time of togetherness. Worship is a special time of praise, celebration and reflection. Pupils sing with enthusiasm, and their worship songs are carried with joy. Ignited by the school's close relationship with local churches, clergy are involved in monitoring and evaluating worship provision. This is a two-way relationship that promotes spiritual growth. As a result, leaders and clergy are creative in their collective aspirations for the worship life of the school and church community.

### Religious Education

Leaders and staff are passionate in their design of an engaging RE curriculum. A valuable partnership with Southampton City Mission contributes to this ethos. RE themed days, rooted in creative approaches such as drama, help pupils to connect with key themes in RE. These dedicated days are memorable and enjoyable. A sense of awe and wonder is evident in RE lessons, meaning that pupils describe RE as fun, interesting and



exciting. They value the opportunities for debate and they take pride in their final outcomes, bringing together their thinking and understanding. Pupils recall stories from the Bible with enthusiasm. Staff are embracing the use of digital journals to document learning in RE. This exciting initiative motivates staff to share and discuss practice across the RE curriculum. In some RE units, however, pupils are not consistently challenged in their depth of thinking and understanding. As identified through leaders' monitoring, this means that pupils have limited awareness of Christianity as a global faith. Testament to the vision, staff are united in their creativity for this subject, determined to ignite curiosity, enable reflection and respond to individual needs.

#### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils are empowered to make a difference. Underpinned by the vision, pupils and adults take considerate care of one another. This sense of responsibility extends beyond the school community, inspiring both local and global initiatives. Pupil voice is cherished and, as a result, there are considerable opportunities for pupil leadership roles. These include class ambassadors and prefects, who actively respond to themes of justice and responsibility. An example can also be found in the work of the charity council, which raises awareness of life challenges in response to the needs and experiences of their school community. As one pupil articulated, they take compassionate responsibility in considering, 'how can we make the world a better place'. A sustained relationship exists between the school and a charity committed to improving education in rural Nepal. Pupils are actively involved in fundraising for this charity, which they feel called to support. Because the school is outward looking, pupils regularly encounter opportunities to think about life beyond their school. They thrive on opportunities to serve others, both individually and collectively.

#### Vision and School Culture

Love and kindness permeate the school. With compassion at the core, the school has established a relational approach in managing behaviour. This means that people are treated with care and understanding, within a nurturing and inclusive environment. As a result, pupils show tenderness to one another and they value the work of adults, who help them to restore friendships. This warm embrace is extended to families, particularly in times of challenge. Tailored support, rooted in knowing families well, enriches lives. As one parent shared, the school's efforts in going 'above and beyond', is appreciated. Through various difficulties, the values continue to bring comfort. They guide decisions made by staff and governors, who serve the school with deep commitment. In turn, wider initiatives and partnerships contribute to this loving ethos. An example can be found in the work of the church, which gifts 'bags of love' to welcome parents and carers of Reception children. Staff are wholehearted in their enthusiasm to know and care for pupils. This includes bespoke provision for sensory needs and a whole school focus on mental health support. As a result, pupils and adults thrive within a school community that nurtures individual growth and wellbeing.

## Information

Address	Solomons Lane, Waltham Chase, Southampton, Hampshire, SO32 2LY		
Date	17 October 2025	URN	116314
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	202
Diocese	Winchester and Portsmouth		
Headteacher	Rebecca Livings		
Chair of Governors	Paul Quigley		
Inspector	Carmella Reece		