

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Dulwich Village Church of England Infants' School			
Address	Dulwich Village London SE21 7BU		
Date of inspection	28 February 2019	Status of school	Voluntary Aided Infant
Diocese	Southwark	URN	I00823
Overall Judgement			Excellent
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 Judgements			
The impact of collective worship			Excellent
The impact of religious education			Excellent
School context			
Dulwich Village School is an infant school with 266 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of British heritage and few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below the national average. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below the national average. The school is located in an affluent area and occupies a split site on opposite sides of the main road.			
The school's Christian vision			
All flourish with God in life, learning and love. When we are with God, rooted in Him, we will flourish without fear and bear fruit of the spirit in every aspect of our lives, showing love for God, ourselves and the world.			
Key findings			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply Christian features of the school's vision bring about the exceptional flourishing of both pupils and adults. All are valued and supported so that they can make the most of their God-given talents. • The clear, highly inclusive Christian vision infuses and shapes all aspects of school life and has a significant life-changing impact on all. • The biblical message, delivered through the vision, enables all pupils to achieve their full potential through outstanding, personalised provision. • Pupils' excellent spiritual and personal development results from experiences provided through the highly creative curriculum, religious education (RE) and collective worship. • Very strong links with the church make a significant contribution to the school's distinctive Christian character and to pupils' spiritual development. 			
Area for development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ways for pupils to have greater input in the planning and leadership of collective worship in order to strengthen their spiritual development and raise aspirations further. 			

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

Dulwich Village School's vision is founded upon deeply embedded Christian values rooted in the biblical teaching from Jeremiah 17, verse 8. 'Flourishing with God in life, learning and love' nurtures the skills and abilities of every member of the school community. The associated Christian values of love, joy, faithfulness, self-control and kindness, are seen in action at every turn. As a result, pupils develop a deep love of learning and respect for all in God's world. All members of this distinctly Christian community are united in the belief that the Christian vision is lived out daily. Parents relate that they frequently witness their children living out these values at home, as well as at school.

The exceptionally strong leadership of the headteacher ensures that the school is relentless in the pursuit of excellence. Consequently, pupils make extremely good progress from their starting points and standards of attainment are consistently well above national averages. Leaders make forthright arguments for the inclusion and support of vulnerable pupils. As a result, bespoke provision for these pupils, particularly those with special educational needs, is excellent. Highly skilled governors and dedicated staff share the inclusive, inspirational vision, which directs all aspects of school improvement. Exceptionally rigorous and effective systems for monitoring and evaluating mean that governors know the school especially well. This has ensured that the recommendations from the previous SIAMS inspection have been addressed successfully. For instance, RE has improved further because of the effective implementation of an enquiry-based curriculum.

Connections with St. Barnabas Church are exceptionally strong and greatly enhance the learning of both pupils and church congregation. This partnership is particularly valued by parents, who remark that the vision 'wraps the whole school community with the church'. Highly effective induction and professional development are prioritised for all staff and governors. As a result, the school has a very successful record of developing future church school leaders.

Leaders are proactive and engage positively with current developments that serve the common good. This is exemplified in the way the school steers a teaching programme with a link school in Uganda. The school also leads exemplary innovations with many other local schools. For instance, a very successful event organised for newly qualified teachers was highly commended by all who participated. The school therefore acts as a centre of excellence, helping pupils and adults, in this school and beyond, to transform their lives.

The vibrant, exciting curriculum, reflecting the school's Christian vision, enables all learners to make excellent progress. A considerable variety of enrichment opportunities provides rich, diverse experiences, including Taekwondo, multi-sports, gym and French. These are tailored to meet the needs of all pupils. The Quest Club and the Church Group are particularly effective in ensuring that spiritual and ethical dimensions are explored dynamically. Consequently, the academic, personal and spiritual needs of all pupils are met exceptionally well. Events such as the local innovative Village People project enable pupils to understand, respect and celebrate difference and diversity.

The school's distinctive vision and values shape this loving, caring community. This can be seen in the way staff model great kindness in their relationships with all. Pupils mirror this behaviour, treating each other with respect and dignity. Pupils show a growing understanding of Christian values, including forgiveness and reconciliation that is beyond their years. They are impressive in the way they articulate the importance of saying sorry and consider changing their actions accordingly. One Year 2 pupil stated that by demonstrating self-control, he was 'good at managing distractions.'

The school supports the mental health of both pupils and adults outstandingly well. This is because leaders are proactive in embracing initiatives such as 'golden days' and the 'daily mile' exercise. Imaginative practice, such as the introduction of Building Learning Power, is particularly powerful at supporting resilience for all. The partnership with Kick London is highly effective in promoting well-being in a culture of care, encouragement and hope.

The school's vision inspires the whole school community to engage in social action in their local, national and global communities. In 'showing love for God, ourselves and the world', families and staff joined in a campaign to highlight air quality. Also, a joint large-scale art project with other church schools helped to stress the importance of clean air. The link with Cherish School in Uganda enables pupils to think globally and to consider ways to challenge poverty, injustice and inequality. For instance, pupils organise events themselves, such as cake sales and give their own birthday money selflessly to fund resources.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of Dulwich Infants. It is an extremely joyful experience with a high level of energetic engagement for all who attend. Because of meticulous planning, based on the teachings of Jesus,

worship is highly innovative and creative. The values are appropriately and very effectively demonstrated through songs, actions and words that especially appeal to younger pupils. Worship therefore has a major impact on the spiritual development of the whole school community. Pupils respond very positively to worship and have a particularly impressive appreciation of the importance of prayer. They share the peace, light candles and read Bible passages, but have limited opportunities to plan and lead worship. Understanding of prayer and Christian values is very effectively supported by the vibrant reflection areas in each classroom.

RE is extremely competently led and managed, consequently the subject enjoys a very high profile at the school. Lessons are highly motivating and inspiring, reflecting the Christian vision of the school exceptionally well. Key enquiry questions enable pupils to develop age appropriate accounts of Christianity and other religious traditions. For instance, pupils respond thoughtfully to questions such as, 'What are the qualities of saints?' and 'What are God's rules for living?' As a result, pupils' knowledge of theology and world religions is developing remarkably well. The school's RE provision therefore more than meets the Church of England statement of entitlement.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

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Attainment and progress in RE are outstanding, with high standards that are well above age-related expectations. This is because consistently outstanding teaching challenges and supports pupils' exploration of religious belief and practices. Highly effective, accurate assessment procedures ensure that all pupils, including those with special educational needs, make very good progress. The experienced RE leader is actively involved in leading innovation within the school and with other schools. This knowledge and expertise results in excellent RE provision. As a result, all pupils flourish exceptionally well in RE.

Headteacher

Helen Poyton

Inspector's name and number

Jenny Earp 288