



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Purley Church of England Primary School

Address Purley Village, Purley-on-Thames, Berkshire, RG8 8AF

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish

Overall grade **Good**

The impact of collective worship **Good**

School's vision

'Learn to love, love to learn', based on Paul's teaching, 'let all that you do be done in love' to ensure all are nurtured as individuals to shine brightly with confidence and be the best version of themselves.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Key findings

- The deeply embedded Christian vision of the school, built on the value of love, is central to all aspects of school life. It is the driving force that enables pupils and adults to flourish in an atmosphere of warmth and respect.
- The vision drives decision-making, policies and practice at all levels. However, not all governors are involved sufficiently in the monitoring of the school as a Church school.
- The school is committed to the wellbeing of everyone in the school community and there is a strong focus on promoting good mental health. This means that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the school is addressing the needs of pupils and adults well.
- Collective worship is the practical outworking of what it means to love, live and learn and makes a significant contribution to pupils' understanding of the vision and values.
- Religious education (RE) is led very well. The school has developed a creative curriculum that inspires pupils to think deeply and to reflect critically on how their learning helps them to live out the school's Christian vision.

Areas for development

- Embed the global dimension, enabling pupils to engage in international projects, in order to deepen their understanding of inequality and injustice in the wider world.
- Ensure that monitoring involves all governors in evaluating the school's effectiveness as a Church school and thus fulfil the Trust Deed.
- Explore opportunities to develop and share good practice in RE with a wider range of schools in order to lead innovation across the diocese.

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

Purley Primary School is an inclusive, nurturing school where the Christian vision and values of love, courage and wisdom are lived out very successfully. Because the school is relentless in supporting their needs, pupils of all abilities and backgrounds progress well and reach their potential. All develop a love of learning in a spirit of kindness, forgiveness and trust. Staff capitalise on their knowledge of each individual child so that they flourish in every way.

Staff, governors and pupils all articulate clearly how the biblical teaching in 1 Corinthians roots the school's vision. They offer numerous examples of how love and care enfold everyone at the school. Parents confirm this and believe that the Christian character has drawn the school community even closer during the pandemic. Everyone supports each other during these exceptionally challenging times, resulting in strong relationships between all stakeholders. Views are listened to and any issues are dealt with swiftly, to the appreciation of many. This was demonstrated notably when parents struggled with home learning during the school's closure due to the lockdown.

The school's vision threads together leaders' strategic decisions, shaping all policies and ongoing developments. The supportive and involved governing body members know the school well and have implemented a system of self-evaluation. Although most governors monitor academic standards at the school effectively, Church school distinctiveness is not always prioritised in meetings, therefore some are insufficiently engaged in the process.

By making learning inclusive and fun, staff offer the very best of experiences to help pupils develop their talents and thus flourish in their learning. This was seen in a recent Owl Walk, organised one Friday night for pupils and their families. Pupils with additional learning and personal needs are identified early and the more able are constantly challenged to be their best. Therapeutic Thinking, a relatively new initiative at the school, has transformed the approach to behaviour management. As a result, behaviour at the school is good. Pupils benefit from making the best choices for themselves and are always given a second chance. This programme reflects the school's vision well.

The school has a deep understanding of spiritual growth. This can be seen in exemplary work captured in their impressive 'Awe and Wonder' and RE scrapbooks. The school engages effectively with the diocese, but opportunities to share innovative best practice have been restricted in recent times. Determined that pupils will feel happy, secure and loved, special moments are created for all during everyday life at Purley Primary School. Leaders are beginning to map these experiences across the curriculum by considering how pupils experience, reflect and grow. An example of this was an exciting Aspirations Week when pupils met a wide range of adults, who showcased their occupations. Pupils felt inspired by the experience and were instilled with hope and ambition for the future.

Pupils understand why it is important to support charities and can link this to the school vision of 'let all that you do be done with love'. They are very clear that it is important to treat others less fortunate themselves with compassion and dignity. They support the local food bank and many national charities, including Children in Need and Red Nose Day. Pupils use their wisdom to be advocates of change in their local area. The school council are currently running a campaign to procure traffic calming measures at the front of the school entrance where a busy, narrow road runs by. Overseas links ceased due to the closure of the partner school, so pupils' opportunities to benefit from global partnerships have been limited lately.

Staff feel valued and supported at the school. They especially welcome the weekly provision of a professional emotional support therapist for adults and pupils. This has a very positive effect on mental health and the upholding of dignity and respect for all. Governors also provided beneficial wellbeing online sessions supporting all staff with their mental health needs during the pandemic lockdown.

Collective worship is central to the Christian vision and is a focal point of the school day. It is motivating, inclusive and centred on love. Its positive impact can be seen in enthusiastic participation and joyous singing by all. Of particular note are the effective worship ambassadors. This team of pupils helps to prepare and lead collective worship and act as role models for others during worship. Parents particularly enjoyed being part of online collective worship during the lockdown and were often deeply moved by the reflection times offered by the headteacher. Weekly celebration assemblies enable pupils to be praised for demonstrating the school vision and values. They appreciate this very much and enjoy being nominated to be 'Purley Paragons'. One pupil recalled showing courage when she was afraid to take

part in a sports day event, but went on to win the race. Another said the value of wisdom helps him to ‘think strategically’, explaining that this means to take things step by step, thus moving him forward in his learning.

RE contributes to flourishing. Good leadership has ensured that all teachers are confident to deliver and assess RE. Teachers value the strong partnership with the diocese and have enhanced practice since the previous SIAMS inspection. The curriculum is highly creative with a diverse, reflective approach to learning that satisfies statutory requirements. Pupils take part in lively debates and have opportunities to learn about religions through visits and visitors. For instance, during the pandemic, pupils took part in an online virtual visit to a mosque, enabling them to gain a deeper knowledge of Islam.

The committed headteacher has been pivotal in creating a distinct ethos that is centred on the Christian vision and associated values. This is underpinned every day by an expectation that everyone will ‘do everything in love’. The lives of both pupils and adults are being transformed, enabling all at Purley Primary School to flourish well. As a result, pupils move on to their next school well-placed to flourish further in their new setting.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	21 October 2021	URN	109971
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2015		
School status	Voluntary Controlled Primary	NOR	110
Diocese	Oxford Diocese		
Headteacher	Karen Fakes		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	Purley has expanded from an Infant School to a Primary School since the last inspection. The catchment area and demographics have changed in recent years. This has resulted in a more diverse intake with a wide variation in economic and social circumstances.		
Inspector’s name	Jenny Earp	No.	288