

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Frenchay Church of England Primary School	
Address	Alexander Road, Frenchay, Bristol, BS16 1UZ

School vision
<p style="text-align: center;">Believe, Belong, Become</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hebrews 10:24-25 ' And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inspired by God's love for us, we are a vibrant learning community, valuing our history, empowering all and working together to create limitless opportunities and lifelong learners.</p>

School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspirational leadership has embedded the school's inclusive Christian vision and the way it is underpinned by biblical teaching. It unites this rich and diverse community and provides meaning and purpose to the whole life of the school community. • Staff have established a clear understanding of spirituality which is shared by pupils and encourages all to flourish. This is enhanced by the way the vision is woven into daily life at school. • Collective worship is the heartbeat of daily life at Frenchay. It provides meaningful moments in which all can flourish spiritually. This is due to the impressive influence of the vision. • The school creates a strong culture of exceptional care, support and encouragement. This is inspired by the vision and its associated Christian value of 'koinonia' or community. This ensures that adults and pupils are treated very well. • Very effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a challenging and relevant curriculum which enhances pupils' learning. As a result, pupils enjoy learning RE. This has a positive impact on their understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews, including Christianity.

Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase opportunities for pupils to act as agents for change in the local community and beyond.

Inspection findings
<p>Inspirational leadership has ensured that a deeply Christian vision is embedded at Frenchay. The words from Hebrews describing the vision of a loving vibrant community are lived out in daily life. They inspire pupils to be confident learners who enthuse about school. Consequently, pupils and adults talk with passion and animation about the impact of the vision at a personal level. The school's recent move to a new carbon-neutral building reflects the vision by setting learning into a future context. The school's partnership with its church community is strong. It symbolises the community at the heart of the vision. Professional development for staff is a priority and has a</p>

powerful effect. This creates a cohesive staff team who flourish because leaders care deeply about their individual wellbeing. Governors have deep insights into the way the vision impacts on pupils. This is due to the robust self-evaluation process which accurately identifies areas for development.

The school's curriculum is shaped by its vision and provides rich and creative experiences explicitly linked to its context. It focusses on learning from the village and city to envisage the needs of the future. Consequently, it is highly inspiring and motivating. It uses challenging and exciting questions such as, 'Why is Bristol buzzing?' to stimulate deep thinking. Opportunities are constantly being adapted to best develop pupils' wide range of individual talents and interests. These activities include the arts, sports and design technology. The school participates in a national robotics competition in which it achieves regular success. Bold decisions are made with the curriculum to maximise learning and to help ensure that barriers can be overcome. As a result of school leaders' actions, the potential of pupils identified as disadvantaged is being transformed. Staff have a clear understanding of spirituality which is shared by pupils. As a result of themed questions, such as, 'Are humans good for the planet?' pupils develop curiosity and self-confidence. This aspect of learning is an integral part of the curriculum and strongly reflects the vision.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school community. This is because it promotes a deep sense of spirituality which sustains and inspires all aspects of school life. Central to daily worship is the bowl of pebbles, with each one representing a member of Frenchay school community. This is fully understood to be a spiritual representation of the school. Pupils' attitudes are positive because they feel included and involved. School leaders, including governors, regularly monitor the impact of worship. This ensures that all are encouraged to flourish spiritually. A range of visitors, including the local churches' Open The Book team, help to shape worship. The very effective retelling of Bible stories fully engages all present. The Christian message often encourages pupils to reflect on relationships within their own community. Pupils particularly appreciate the opportunities to sing joyously as well as to be still and reflect. The school prayer, incorporating encouraging words from Hebrews, embeds the vision in its special place in worship. Reflective classroom spaces, including one for staff, are well considered. They link well with worship themes and so sustain the school's spiritual life.

Very caring relationships, inspired by the strong sense of belonging, are central to life at Frenchay. This is because pupils, staff and parents support one another so that all can feel cherished. Pupils enjoy learning from others with different life experiences. Consequently, the vision promotes an inclusive, vibrant community where adults and pupils are treated well. The school is a place where interactions are based on mutual respect. A school wellbeing team provides a voice for both staff and pupils ensuring that they feel listened to. Older buddies who support the youngest pupils have a very beneficial impact across all ages. Pupils talk with understanding about the way they welcome new arrivals, often from overseas. They show compassion and deep insights about how to support and help them thrive.

The school's vision creates a respectful culture of justice and responsibility. This is because pupils understand and take action to 'spur one another toward love and good deeds.' Members of Year 6 take responsibility for leading 'houses' of mixed-age groups in collective worship. This strengthens the sense of a cohesive community. They recognise how best to involve and meet the needs of younger pupils. Older pupils discuss questions such as 'Who has the right to water?' This develops their understanding that rights and responsibilities are complex issues. They share their joy of singing and music with residents of the local care homes and the nearby Brain Injuries Unit. These strong partnerships are widening pupils' understanding of sharing and extending their immediate community beyond school. Opportunities exist for pupils to learn about issues around justice such as from the Atlantic slave trade in Bristol. They also visit the city to study local Black role models who challenged injustice. Pupils became passionate about fairtrade whilst studying themed learning

linked to chocolate. They felt empowered to act on behalf of the cacao farmers and publicised the injustice they suffered in the local area. However, taking action as agents of change is not embedded across the school.

RE is a high priority as well as an enjoyable and inspiring subject at the heart of this Church school curriculum. This is because it reflects the school's diverse community where all beliefs and faiths are highly valued. RE has a very positive impact on life at school. Pupils say that learning in RE helps them 'to know' each other. Visits to various places of worship in Bristol as well as the church in Frenchay enhance and enrich pupils' experiences. The inspirational subject leader ensures that the RE curriculum is well planned and effectively balanced. It is fully focused on meeting the needs of all pupils as they progress through the school. The curriculum inspires learning that is challenging, motivating and relevant. Pupils are encouraged to reflect and think deeply about their own beliefs and those of others. They often volunteer to talk about their faiths, increasing the understanding of their peers from a personal perspective. Consequently, discussions provoke insightful responses from pupils and so make a substantial contribution to spiritual development in RE.

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

Information			
Inspection date	23 April 2024	URN	109178
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	196
Diocese	Bristol		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Katherine Marks		
Chair	David Williams		
Inspector	Daphne Spitzer	No.	37