

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Ursula Taylor Church of England Primary School

Vision

Living God's Love, Together we Flourish.

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.' John 15:5.

We are a nurturing Church of England school providing an inclusive and stimulating environment for all. We deliver purposeful, challenging and enjoyable experiences. Our children are inspired to become confident and enthusiastic life-long learners, able to reach their full potential academically, socially, physically and spiritually. We strive to provide opportunities to allow us all to flourish and be the best versions of ourselves that we can be.

Ursula Taylor Church of England Primary 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.

Strengths

- Driven by the Christian vision, leaders ensure pupils and adults are valued for who they are, in a culture that supports and nurtures. This enables pupils and adults to be 'Living God's Love' and flourish together.
- The vision shapes the well-balanced curriculum and the way leaders have tailored it to meet the needs of all. As a result, pupils, including the vulnerable and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), strive for success.
- Wellbeing is a high priority for leaders and there is an overwhelming sense of togetherness. Leaders have created an extremely caring culture, where pupils and adults are treated well.
- Pupils and adults enjoy coming together for collective worship. Along with exploring the Christian vision, they value the time it provides for calm and reflective opportunities for personal spirituality.
- Effective leadership of religious education (RE) ensures that pupils receive an ambitious and challenging curriculum. Because of this, pupils are able to explore a range of worldviews and religions, including Christianity.

Development Points

- Embed the shared language of spirituality across the curriculum. This is so adults and pupils are increasingly confident in expressing their thoughts as they develop spiritually.
- Extend opportunities for pupils to act independently to bring about change, engaging with local and global issues. This is so that they are aware of how to challenge injustice beyond the school.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision at Ursula Taylor School fosters a supportive community, rooted in 'living God's love'. Held at the heart of decision making, the vision drives leaders to make challenging choices. They exemplify the vision in action, empowering others to do the same. This enables the school to embrace its diverse community in a warm and welcoming manner. The golden thread of core Christian values, including dignity, hope and joy, is deeply embedded in daily life. Leaders ensure that the vision forms the foundation for pupils' personal development. Through acts of compassion and by showing forgiveness to each other, pupils help one other to be the best they can. The partnerships with the church, diocese and trust are a strength of the school and have a positive impact on pupil's wellbeing.

Shaped by the Christian vision, the school's carefully designed curriculum is aspirational. It enables pupils to be nurturing, compassionate, well-rounded individuals. It provides pupils, including those with SEND, with opportunities for personal growth. Adults demonstrate deep kindness and compassion in their efforts to support vulnerable pupils, many of whom arrive with limited English. Staff ensure that they receive the care and nurture they need. This enables newly arrived pupils to settle quickly into school life and thrive. Leaders ensure that pupils have access to a full range of educational experiences, both in the classroom and beyond. Clubs and activities are provided at no cost to families. This approach enables pupils to discover and nurture their talents. It also empowers them to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. Pupils regularly engage in awe and wonder moments, such as exploring nature or visiting galleries and the theatre. These experiences broaden their horizons and provide them with rich cultural opportunities. However, across the curriculum the shared language of spirituality is in its infancy. This limits the way pupils and adults are able to express their own thoughts and opinions.

Inspired by the Christian vision, collective worship enables pupils and adults to have time to reflect. Leaders of worship provide rich opportunities for spiritual growth. Pupils and adults explore how the school's values guide good decision-making and a meaningful life. Worship also aligns with key events in the Christian calendar. This fosters a sense of belonging and shared purpose with the wider community. The school's partnership with the local church is a significant strength. Church leaders take an active and valued role in school life. They contribute to spiritual growth by leading services, running the Christian Club, and supporting the choir. Regular visits to the church for events such as Harvest and Easter provide pupils and staff with the opportunity to share these with the community. The inclusive approach to worship enables it to be accessible to all members of the school. Leaders have created a culture of curiosity and openness, creating a safe space for pupils to explore challenging questions. This ensures pupils listen to different perspectives and reflect on their choices. As a result, they develop a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Through the Christian vision, leaders in school create a culture of justice and responsibility. This enables pupils to make thoughtful decisions and take meaningful actions. The core values serve as a guiding framework for behaviour and positive relationships throughout the school. Staff consistently encourage pupils to use these values in their daily interactions. This helps them develop self-regulation and a strong sense of personal responsibility. This is evident in their positive attitudes toward learning and their ability to reflect on their choices. Pupils are able to work with staff to recognise issues that need changing in school. They are encouraged to identify issues they care about and take proactive steps to address them. For example, the Reading Ambassadors put forward a successful case for moving the school library. However, there are few opportunities for pupils to take a lead in social action beyond the school. This limits their awareness of how they can make a positive impact in the wider world. Service



and charity are key aspects of the school's Christian vision, with pupils actively participating in initiatives that support others. The school contributes to the local food bank and raises funds at annual events. This enables pupils to develop responsibility, encouraging them to live out the school's values in a meaningful way.

Leaders ensure that RE is highly effective. The curriculum provides pupils with a comprehensive and well-structured learning experience. This includes in depth exploration of differing worldviews and religions including Christianity. The RE curriculum is regularly reviewed and monitored by leaders from the school and trust. This ensures the well-planned lessons across the school enable pupils to build effectively on prior learning. Staff are well-supported through extensive resources and high-quality professional development. This is evident in the classroom, where engaging lessons make good use of subject-specific vocabulary. An inclusive approach ensures that lessons are adapted to meet individual needs. Staff use assessments, such as quizzes and quick-fire questions, to check understanding and address misconceptions. End of topic indicators ensure that pupil's progress is tracked effectively.

The school's Christian vision fosters a culture where wellbeing and relationships are a priority for pupils and adults. The golden thread of the school's values serves as a guiding framework for all interactions and decisions. This ensures that members of the community feel welcomed and supported. Leaders from the trust and school are grounded in principles of respect and wellbeing. The school actively seeks external services to provide additional mental health support through the trust and local organisations. This commitment creates a safe, nurturing environment for pupils and adults to flourish. Staff professional development is comprehensive and ensures adults can support pupils' diverse needs. The staff work together as a supportive team.

Information

Address	High St, Clapham, Bedford, MK41 6EG		
Date	11/02/2025	URN	139990
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	366
Diocese	St Albans		
MAT	Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Victoria Morrall		
Chair of Governors	Louise Tyrrell		
Inspector	Rob Dean		