THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

The Methodist Church

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

| Bladon Church of England Primary School | | | | | |
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| **Address** | Park Street, Bladon, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1RW | | | | |
| **Date of inspection** | 4 July 2019 | **Status of school** | VC Primary | | |
| **Diocese** | **Oxford** | | **URN** | 123119 | |

| **Overall Judgement** | **Grade** | **Good** |
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| 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 Judgement** | | |
| **The impact of collective worship** | **Grade** | **Good** |

## School context

Bladon is a primary school with 99 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. 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 (SEND) is below national averages. 'The school has grown in size since the previous SIAMS inspection and there has been a change in headteacher.

## The school's Christian vision

Bladon CE Primary School is proud its vision: '*Flourish as a family, in the fullness of life. Feed the mind; free the imagination'* rooted in Psalm *12.15.* Staff and governors endeavour to create a family ethos underpinned by the Christian vision and values. Staff, governors and families work together to provide the highest standards of learning, where all are respected.

## Key findings

- The dedicated leadership of the headteacher, supported by all staff and governors, enables everyone within the school community to flourish.
- The vision of the school, although in its infancy, upholds and nurtures the wellbeing of pupils, staff and parents so that all feel respected and cared for. The articulation of the vision is embedding within the wider school community.
- Pupils share the school vision and the difference Christian values make to their behaviour and responsibility to the wider world. International links are developing through charitable activities.
- Pupils flourish academically, as a result of the commitment to providing for the needs of individuals. Plans for deeper learning within religious education are being prioritised.
- Worship is enjoyable whilst teaching pupils about the person of Jesus. Pupils are leading others in the use of prayer and towards a deeper knowledge of the Bible.
- The community values the inclusive prayer and reflection which is planned for as part of regular worship,

## Areas for development

- Governors to strengthen existing monitoring to ensure all members of the community can articulate the vision and its impact on pupils and families.
- Enhance the learning about world religions by engaging with faith communities and providing pupils with challenging activities.
- Explore areas in the wider school curriculum to develop pupil's spirituality and connection with the natural world.

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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**

The dedicated leadership of the headteacher ensures that staff live out the vision, 'Flourish as a family, in the fullness of life. Feed the mind; free the imagination.' Psalm 12. Pupils speak of feeling God's love within a nurturing and wider family, where they say everyone knows everyone else. This is also valued by staff, who comment on the personal and professional support that they receive. Governors are fully involved, leading to an effective strategic development of the Christian vision enabling further development of the curriculum including religious education. Procedures for more robust systems of monitoring are being developed and the headteacher has a clear plan for how this will enhance the vision further within the community. Pupils' academic achievement is good, further testament to the commitment of staff who develop minds with exciting learning activities. The vision enfolds vulnerable learners ensuring that all are nurtured and supported. Pupils are excited by their learning within the harmonious community of the school. Learning opportunities are increasingly challenging, fostering a broader knowledge within the curriculum.

The school benefits from good strategic support provided by the Diocese. The new leader for religious education attends network meetings which has led to a review of resources and the range of religions taught. Leaders provide teachers with informative resources for the effective teaching of religious education. Pupils are beginning to demonstrate a greater awareness of the major world faiths. Pupils enjoy learning facts regarding Hindu beliefs about Karma with one pupil able to compare these to living life a good Christian. Effective partnerships with local schools prompts leaders to continually evaluate and improve the impact of the vision. This leads to high quality professional development and good pupil outcomes for all groups within the school.

Pupils articulate their responsibility to each other and are proud of their actions to improve life for people beyond their local community. Contributions to the Oxford food bank form part of the school's regular discipleship and a recent project to collect coins in Smartie tubes, raises awareness of life for students in Sierra Leone. Through its vision, the school aspires to providing an environment where pupils can challenge themselves yet remain healthy mentally and emotionally. The Wellbeing Award for Schools recognises the school's Christian advocacy at work to nurture the minds of all within the community. Pupils refer to the school value of respect when talking about their role in ensuring the preservation of the natural environment. An assembly focusing on dolphin conservation, as part of a science week, demonstrates how the school weaves its vision regarding awe and wonder into areas of the curriculum Leaders have developed a behaviour policy which fosters a deep understanding of reconciliation so that pupils feel safe. Parents value the individual approach where pupils are cared for as God's children. One parent described the atmosphere like 'a big hug' They value the way that the vision is shared in a modern way which makes this more meaningful for pupils of all ages.

Leaders weave the vision into whole school and class worship which enables pupils to reflect on the teachings of Jesus and learn about significant Bible stories. Pupil led worship is planned under the guidance of the rector and the headteacher. Pupil worship leaders consider the needs of those gathered and involve younger children in storytelling. All within the community value the daily 'Wake Up, Shake Up' followed by yoga because this calms the mind and creates a spiritual start to the day. The commitment and passion to ensure pupil wellbeing is a demonstration of the vision shaping the lives of pupils from the moment they arrive in school. This is a strength of the school. Pupils engage spiritually with the activities whilst flourishing physically. The school has yet to involve pupils with an understanding of how reflection and spirituality can deepen their emotional connection with God's creation. The school contributes to the family worship at St Martin's Church which strengthens the relationship within the community. The Church with its location right next to the school offers a constant reminder of God's love which the pupils say they enjoy when they are outside playing. The early year's garden provides space for reflection which older pupils say they would like to access more. Parents value opportunities to join worship, particularly at Church. The 'standing room only' carol service is an example of a flourishing community gathering for worship.

The planning of religious education is developing which provides a broader awareness of world faiths. As a result of the 'Understanding Christianity' training, the school expertly weaves Christian beliefs and practice into the curriculum. However, the school plans to extend study of the other world faiths to ensure pupils have a deeper knowledge and can draw comparisons more easily. The new subject leader for religious education has ambitious

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plans and is passionate about supporting her colleagues. She is receiving good support from the diocesan adviser so the impact of improvements can already be seen in the pupil's enthusiastic sharing of their learning. Class books capture learning and celebrate pupil responses to big questions on new themes. The systems for assessment are increasingly robust alongside feedback to pupils in books. This enables pupils to understand what they have done well and how they are improving. As a result of the enquiry approach, pupils are able to engage in debate and justify their responses when discussing the big questions of life. The religious education questionnaire to pupils reveals that they value opportunities to 'act out epic adventures about the Bible and God.' In this way, pupils are certainly being nourished with knowledge and supported in their understanding.

The commitment to high educational standards and the nurture of all, exemplifies the school's vision to 'flourish as a family, in the fullness of life. Feed the mind; free the imagination.' Pupils, staff and parents feel the unwavering support due to the positive relationships and dedication of the leadership team.

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| Headteacher | Tracey Fletcher |
| Inspector's name and number | Helen Crolla 918 |

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