

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew's Church Junior School

Vision

Shining light on a world of possibilities in order to have 'life in all its fulness' (John 10:10)

The Christian vision is underpinned by the school core values:

Hope (Romans 15:13), Perseverance (Romans 5:3-5), Respect (Matthew 7:12), Love (John 13:34)

St Andrew's Church Junior 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.

Notable Strengths

- The school's deeply embedded and shared Christian vision enables adults and pupils to flourish. The vision is the lifeblood of the school and runs through strategic decision-making and daily life.
- The Christian vision inspires a culture where pupils and adults are treated well. A deeply caring and respectful atmosphere pervades school life.
- The new approach to the curriculum, in line with the Christian vision, is based upon 'big questions.' It opens up opportunities which stimulate thinking, reflection and enquiry, enabling pupils to thrive.
- In support of the vision, the school enjoys a range of close and effective working relationships. These include the local parish church, the Diocese of Bath and Wells and the Priory Learning Trust. The partnerships enrich both the curriculum offer and spiritual development.
- Inspired by the Christian vision, provision and care for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or who are deemed to be vulnerable, are exceptional. This demonstrates the school's commitment to enabling pupils to flourish.

Development Points

- Extend the religious education (RE) curriculum to develop depth of thinking and reflection. This is to enable pupils to increase their personal enquiry into religious views and practices.
- Plan more securely for spiritual development across the curriculum and in collective worship. This is to support pupils on their individual spiritual journeys.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

St Andrew's School has a deeply embedded Christian vision that enables pupils and adults to flourish. The accompanying four values of hope, perseverance, respect and love run through the school. They are known and lived out daily by adults and pupils, making the vision a living reality. Behaviour is extremely good and relationships between adults and pupils are a strength of the school. The community works together to create a caring and respectful place of learning. Here, pupils and staff feel cared for and safe. The school believes that each individual is a unique child of God and aims to give them the opportunity to succeed. The trust vision is rooted in the Church of England's vision to promote 'life in all its fullness'. By aiming to provide 'a great education for every child', it effectively supports the work of the school. The school's vision and houses are based upon local landmarks and Burnham's famous people. This encourages pupils to have a sense of pride in their place in the world. Like the local lighthouse, they 'shine a light on the world' and raise aspirations.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum reflects the Christian vision and puts pupils at the centre of their learning journeys. The enquiry-based curriculum is a strength of the school. Pupils enjoy learning through questioning and discussion. They are given time to reflect and respond to questions such as, 'Why should we adapt and change?' This development of enquiry skills supports pupils' growth as responsible global citizens. A creative range of interventions is tailored to respond to the needs of SEND pupils and those experiencing other challenges. These needs are identified early and personalised provision put in place. For example, visiting the sensory room, time in a safe place or changes to timetables are all implemented and monitored. A bespoke programme for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) has been designed by the school for its pupils. This is tailored to support them in learning for life. Spirituality occurs spontaneously and is identified in a number of subjects. However, this is not consistent across the curriculum. Therefore, opportunities to identify and discuss spirituality are missed. This reduces pupils' understanding that spiritual moments can occur throughout life and restricts the growth of their personal spirituality.

Worship and Spirituality

Daily collective worship is central to school life. It is a time when pupils and adults are given space and time in which to grow spiritually and flourish together. Pupils and adults receive and share one message and see this time of coming together as one of peace and reflection. Worship is inclusive and invitational. Pupils particularly enjoy the end of worship challenges based on school values, which are set for them to achieve each week. Worship is planned around the school values and delivered by a range of leaders and visitors to the school. Pupils enjoy worshipping through song, and sing well. Singing in worship inspired the formation of a now large and successful school choir. Spirituality is viewed as an essential part of worship, but it is not well-planned for. This means that adults and pupils do not experience a structured programme of opportunities to support their spiritual development. Pupils are inspired by worship both to reflect and to act. The reflection garden is a popular thinking place and plans to support different charities are hatched there. Pupil worship leaders are very involved in worship, building their confidence and feeling of self-worth. They relish the opportunity to lead worship and monitor it daily to support everyone to 'feel close to God'. Partnerships with the parish church and the vicar enhance worship. The school and families worship together in church for major Christian festivals and special events. This opportunity to share in worship is valued by the school community.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

In line with their vision to 'shine a light', the school has an active culture of justice and responsibility. Pupils understand justice and their responsibility to address unfairness. They are given opportunities in lessons and collective worship to consider and reflect upon local and world issues. Following a presentation about local food poverty, some pupils were moved to take action and support local food banks. To look after God's world and to



reduce global warming, the school parliament grew vegetables at school. Service to others is seen as an essential expression of faith. One school house is named after local hero Frank Foley who saved Jewish people from the holocaust. He is an inspiration to pupils to stand up for what is right. Pupils understand how their actions impact others. For example, the behaviour policy is based upon restorative justice and mistakes are used as opportunities for growth and reconciliation. Inspired by the vision, pupils are generous and serve the local community. They support national charities and raise money independently for them. They support the local community by, for example, contributing to the annual Remembrance service, litter picking and singing at local care homes at Christmas.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum is effective and enjoys a high-profile at St Andrew's. Supporting the Christian vision, RE is regarded as a core subject. It is well-resourced and popular. The curriculum enables pupils to acquire a broad and accurate range of knowledge about religious and non-religious worldviews. Parents value their children learning about this diversity. A school interfaith week supports this with leaders from a range of faiths, including Christianity, visiting the school. This encourages pupils to see Christianity as a world faith. Pupils enjoy discussion and debate in RE, finding it rewarding and informative. Supported by the school ethos of respect, they feel able to express themselves and ask questions in safe surroundings. However, the curriculum lacks depth of thinking. This means that pupils are unable to explore religions in detail, comparing and contrasting religious beliefs and practices for themselves.

Vision and School Culture

The Christian vision inspires the school community to live well together and achieve their God-given potential. St Andrew's is a highly inclusive school, where members care for each other and treat others with dignity and respect. Demonstrating this, new staff, pupils and families are welcomed and cherished. Wellbeing is a high priority for leaders of both school and trust. Staff are encouraged to flourish professionally through tailored professional development and sharing best practice. Pupils are known and encouraged to thrive through the staff's proactive and nurturing support. For example, all staff are trained to handle trauma and so support pupils and colleagues with appropriate empathy and care. Forest school and outdoor equipment are available on site to enhance support for pupils at challenging times. In line with the vision, staff model compassion, patience and love which pupils emulate. Wellbeing champions proudly support their friends and younger peers with school life.

Information

Address	Dunstan Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1ER		
Date	04 February 2026	URN	150953
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	290
Diocese	Bath and Wells		
MAT	The Priory Learning Trust		
MAT CEO	Will Roberts		
MAT Chair	Sally Harvey		
Headteacher	Wayne Higgins		
Chair of Community Council	David Norton		
Inspector	Alison Appleyard		