Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Augustine's Church of England Primary School

Vision

Believe in ourselves, live well together, anchored by God's love.
We strive for excellence in everything we do within a fun and safe environment where we aspire to build the resilience to learn from our failures. Underpinned by our strong Christian school values, we aim to treat each other well, build strong meaningful relationships and promote 'life in all its fullness'.

St Augustine's 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.

Notable Strengths

- The school's clear Christian vision drives its strategic direction. This enables pupils and adults to feel valued, nurtured and able to flourish.
- The curriculum is shaped by the vision, providing engaging experiences that broaden pupils' horizons and enrich their understanding of the world. Support for pupils considered vulnerable helps them grow in resilience and self-belief, enabling them to thrive.
- Reflecting the Christian vision, wellbeing is central to the life and work of the school. Strong relationships ensure pupils and adults feel supported, guided, and able to live well together.
- Collective worship, enriched by strong church links, is inclusive and offers meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection.

Development Points

- Strengthen the Religious education (RE) curriculum to deepen pupils' understanding of non-religious worldviews and diverse religious traditions beyond Christianity.
- Embed clearer opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum to help pupils explore meaning, purpose, and human experience.
- Extend opportunities for personal prayer and reflection to support pupils' individual spiritual growth.

Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

St Augustine's Primary School offers a warm welcome to pupils, families, and visitors. Anchored in God's love, as expressed in the Christian vision, the school creates a strong sense of belonging. A nurturing environment ensures people feel valued, supported, and known. As a result, strong and meaningful relationships exist. Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders serve the school community with compassion. Decisions are made with a clear focus on enabling individuals to flourish. Inclusion and pastoral care are key priorities, demonstrating the school's commitment to meeting individual needs. Increased staffing and a dedicated space have strengthened provision, helping pupils to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. Governors are highly committed and have a clear understanding of the school's work. They visit regularly and actively participate in school life. Leaders and governors evaluate the impact of the Christian vision on pupils and adults. They use this insight to inform continuous improvement. For example, the personal development curriculum is designed so that all classes explore the same themes at the same time. This ensures consistent language is used to express Christian values across the school community. As a result, pupils have a shared understanding and a strong foundation for treating one another with dignity and respect.

Vision and Curriculum

Motivated by the Christian vision, an active approach to learning inspires pupils to achieve well and enjoy their education. Pupils engage in learning that sparks curiosity and encourages a problem-solving mindset. Subjects such as science and maths help pupils explore ideas and persevere when faced with challenges. During practical science, pupils consider and predict what might happen in experiments, such as those involving forces. Pupils show enjoyment in mathematics and demonstrate perseverance when faced with challenges, taking pride in not giving up. Outdoor learning enriches education through experiences that deepen pupils' connection to nature and God's creation. Pupils use tools and light fires, growing in responsibility and tenacity. These experiences meaningfully support pupils' personal growth, wellbeing, and spiritual awareness. However, spiritual development is not consistently understood, meaning some curriculum opportunities for deeper growth are missed. Pupils considered vulnerable are supported with care and sensitivity through targeted interventions and an inclusive school environment. For example, breakfast club provides a safe, welcoming space where pupils prepare positively for the day. This helps pupils attend regularly, feel valued, and be ready to learn. Staff support pupils in understanding emotions, which builds self-belief and resilience. Extra-curricular activities including sport, craft, and Lego develop interests and skills beyond the classroom. These opportunities deepen pupils' awareness of what contributes to a full and flourishing life.

Religious Education

Leaders value RE and are committed to its role in helping pupils understand diversity and different worldviews. The well-planned curriculum provides purposeful opportunities to explore Christianity alongside other major world faiths. It is well planned, and professional development supports consistency in planning RE across the school. Each unit identifies key information, core vocabulary, and enquiry questions to guide teaching and learning. Pupils are encouraged to consider big questions, such as 'What kind of world did Jesus want?' This enables pupils to make use of their enquiry skills and develop personal responses. They take part in discussions and express their thinking in creative and reflective ways. As a result, pupils demonstrate a secure understanding of Christian beliefs, practices, and their relevance in people's lives today. However, pupils' understanding of other religions and non-religious worldviews is limited in depth.

Vision and School Culture

A shared understanding of values such as kindness, respect, and trust shapes daily life and relationships. These values, inspired by the Christian vision, help pupils experience love in action through behaviour and choices. Pupils understand that kindness supports happy friendships and that forgiveness helps restore relationships

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when things go wrong. They are inspired by Jesus' example of compassion and learn to treat others with empathy and respect. This deepens their understanding of living well together in a caring, inclusive community. A strong culture of compassion is modelled by staff at all levels. Leaders prioritise wellbeing by investing in staff development and providing support. As a result, staff feel valued, trusted, and able to grow professionally. Pastoral leaders build trusting relationships with families, offering care tailored to meet pupils' needs. The school is rooted in God's love, bringing hope and a strong sense of belonging. Wellbeing is central to the school's vision of human flourishing.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Guided by its Christian vision, a sense of justice and fairness shapes daily life across the school community. The curriculum and collective worship offer opportunities for pupils to explore injustice and reflect on making positive change. Through studying historical figures, pupils reflect thoughtfully on injustices experienced by individuals and communities. This learning helps pupils recognise their role in building a fairer, more compassionate world. Pupils understand that people have different needs and know not to judge others by appearance or behaviour. Finding out about places in geography helps pupils connect global issues such as climate change with local solutions including recycling. Pupil leadership roles encourage responsibility and promote action, including caring for the environment. For example, pupils built a bug hotel after learning how minibeasts contribute to sustaining the ecosystem. Other pupils show compassion by including lonely friends, demonstrating kindness in their everyday playground relationships.

Worship and Spirituality

Daily collective worship is central to school life and enriches the spiritual development of pupils and adults. It fosters a deep sense of belonging as the school community gathers. Worship is an active expression of the Christian vision of being anchored in God's love and takes varied forms. Elements that support spiritual flourishing include joyful singing, prayer, and moments for quiet, personal reflection. Pupils value worship, saying it helps them live with kindness and love, as taught through Christian stories. Both pupils and adults feel included in worship, regardless of their personal faith or beliefs. Worship offers space to reflect on personal actions, relationships, and beliefs in a safe and respectful environment. Staff appreciate collective worship as a time of stillness, joyful music, unity, and spiritual reflection. However, opportunities for personal prayer and spiritual reflection beyond worship are limited. A strong partnership with the local parish church supports and enhances the spiritual life of the school. Regular visits from the vicar and Open the Book team help pupils understand Bible stories and their deeper meanings. Parents enjoy joining church services during Christian festivals, strengthening relationships between home, school, and church. Monthly events for school families, with crafts and fellowship, build community and demonstrate the strength of the church-school partnership.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Vicarage Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 7PB.		
Date	06 October 2025	URN	126009
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	96
Diocese	Chichester		
Headteacher	Ben Cornford		
Chair of Governors	Lynn Hainge		
Inspector	Susan Costa		