

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Michael at Bowes Church of England Junior School	
Address	Tottenham Road, Bowes park, N13 6JB
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
An inclusive Christian community building on firm foundations for successful lives. 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' Matthew 22:39
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded Christian vision is transformational for pupils and adults in this fully inclusive school. Leaders are committed to ensuring that everyone succeeds. Recent developments to governors' monitoring of the school as a Church school are in their infancy. • The diversity of the school community is unreservedly embraced to the benefit of all. The Christian vision ensures that everyone is treated with dignity and respect, which leads to exceptional flourishing for all. • Pupils and adults thrive within the loving culture that is grown from the firm foundations of the school's vision. Vulnerable pupils are exceptionally well supported, and their achievements routinely surpass expectations leading to positive life-lasting changes. • The Christian vision is readily expressed throughout the rich worship life of the school. The whole school community is continually drawn to reflect and pray because worship is fully inclusive. Areas for prayer and reflection outside are underdeveloped. • A bespoke religious education (RE) curriculum ensures that pupils flourish in exciting and thought-provoking RE lessons. All pupils progress rapidly in RE lessons.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed new systems for governors to effectively monitor the school as a Church school, enabling them to contribute further to self-evaluation. • Develop spaces for reflection and prayer within the school grounds, so that the opportunities for pupils to grow spiritually are enhanced.



Inspection findings

At St Michael at Bowes (SMAB) the Christian vision is thoroughly lived out. Skilful leaders harness the views of the whole school community to ensure it is deeply embedded. It is an inclusive Christian community which builds on firm foundations for successful lives of all those involved at SMAB. The school's associated values are the tools that the staff utilise to deliver the vision so effectively. School leaders monitor the impact robustly, which informs accurate self-assessment. Governors know the school very well. The results of the recent changes to the monitoring systems deployed by governors are in their infancy. High-quality training from the Diocese ensures that leaders are well-informed about developments in Christian education. Relationships within the school community are exceptionally strong. Effective partnerships between parents, staff, governors, and the local church communities greatly support the development of the school. The strategic direction is constantly infused by the vision that leaders uphold and embody. As a result of this transformational work, everyone flourishes and is enabled to succeed. The theological roots of the vision are continually reinforced in policies and procedures. Pupils transfer from a non-Church infant school. They are sensitively submerged within the distinctive Christian character of SMAB. The careful consideration to plan this transition and to welcome new pupils and families, are exceptional. High-quality induction of staff supports this.

Pupils are curious about the big questions of life. A secure and widespread understanding of spirituality ensures that they can reflect on their place in the world. Pupils hold impressive conversations about the vision and articulate in detail how this supports their lives. Examples of former pupils' success beyond SMAB are showcased and inspire current pupils for the future. This is coupled with a safe and trusting environment in which they can ask questions. Everyone's views are listened to and fully respected. The vision is the driving force for all transformational curricular and extra-curricular decisions leaders take. Consequently, every chance to embed the vision is taken and enhanced by opportunities for spiritual growth. Highly effective staff are well-trained to support every pupil academically, socially, and spiritually. Pupil's learning and spiritual needs are well met because everyone lives out the vision to an extraordinarily high level.

Fervent leaders ensure the successful character and moral development of all pupils. This gives them life-changing aspiration for themselves and hope for the communities in which they live. Pupils are proud to be part of a very diverse community. Cultural backgrounds are fully respected and ethnicities within the school are celebrated, valued, and shared remarkably well. The unity of the school is founded on the words of Jesus, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'. This is understood by pupils to incorporate their peers, people in the locality, and across the world. Foundations grow from SMAB's engrained Christian values. Honesty and resilience lead to success for pupils and adults. Leaders value contributions that members of staff make. Subsequently, staff retention is high. There is a tangible sense of fellowship and family amongst all adults at SMAB. Together, with pupils, they create a united school in which everyone is enabled to flourish.

The Christian vision inspires the whole school community to engage in social action projects and to be courageous advocates for change. Pupils suggest charities that are supported. This moves well beyond fundraising, focusing on the difference that pupils can make to others in need. They learn about their 'neighbours', issues of deprivation, and the exploitation of the natural world. Consequently, they are passionate to make a difference in their local, national, and global communities. Pupils are ardent in tackling injustice. Their desire to make a difference in the world is infectious.

The value of forgiveness, coupled with their desire for reconciliation are woven seamlessly




into behaviour policies. As a result, pupils behave exceptionally well. Rare incidents of poor behaviour are opportunities captured to develop pupils' understanding of the values they have not fully demonstrated. Pupils reflect deeply on behaviour choices within the context of the vision. Wellbeing and mental health are prioritised by leaders. Effective engagement with families ensures that interventions to support mental health and wellbeing impact pupils and adults alike. Staff have a forensic understanding of every pupil. Pupils who join the school new to English are exceptionally well supported within the nurturing culture of SMAB. Barriers to learning are swiftly overcome.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of SMAB. Pupils are empowered to plan, lead and evaluate acts of worship in innovative ways that lead to sustained improvements. Invitational prayer and reflection are spontaneous and treasured by everyone. Spaces inside for contemplation and prayer are well used. However, this is not reflected outside. Clergy support with worship planning. The teachings of Jesus are fully explored. Pupils are enabled to make tangible links between parables and their own lives. Their knowledge and understanding of Bible stories are impressive. They articulate the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity with confidence. Many styles of Christian worship are experienced. This ensures that Anglican traditions are understood and that other Christian denominations are included. Strong and lasting relationships between the two church communities enrich the styles of worship the whole school community experience.

RE has a prominent place within the curriculum because of the vision. The new subject leader engages fully with diocesan training. Leaders comprehensively weave the vision throughout the ambitious RE curriculum. The reworking and sequencing of the syllabus ensures pupils learn quickly and make rapid progress from their starting points. Lessons are exciting and thought-provoking. This gives clarity of vision and supports pupils' exploration of theology, philosophy, and the human social sciences. Theological concepts are effectively unpicked and explored. As a result, pupils' conversations about world views, faith, and beliefs, are very well articulated. Pupils have developed age-appropriate skills of inquiry, critical analysis, and interpretation which they confidently apply within RE lessons. Pupils learn about the global aspect of Christianity. Teachers ensure that pupils are challenged to think and apply prior learning in lessons. The diverse faith communities at SMAB are celebrated and shared effectively throughout RE lessons. Pupils relish being used as experts about their religious heritage. One pupil accurately explained this, 'We value learning about Islam and Hinduism from each other. It helps us to better understand the culture and religions of others'. Pupils demonstrate a deeply informed and respectful understanding of a range of religions and worldviews.

At SMAB, an inclusive Christian community is built on firm foundations within the context of a deeply theologically rooted Christian vision. This leads to successful lives for everyone.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent
	<p>Teaching and learning in RE is consistently excellent. Robust monitoring of pupils' work ensures high-quality outcomes. Learning is deep and long-lasting. Pupils' work is of the highest standard and they are rightly proud of their progress and achievement in RE. Evidence of challenge and personal reflection are woven through pupils work. Potential barriers to learning are overcome by highly skilled staff providing rich lesson content. Consequently, all pupils are enabled to flourish.</p>		
Information			
School	St Michael at Bowes Church of England Junior School	Inspection date	22 November 2022
URN	102026	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided
Diocese/District	London	Pupils on roll	284
Headteacher	Debbie Butcher		
Chair of Governors	Lawrence Desouza		
Inspector	Toby Long	No.	896