

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Clement Danes Church of England Primary School	
Address	Drury Lane, London, WC2B 5SU
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
<p>'Providing an anchor in life, so that all may have life and have it to the full' (cf. John 10:10).</p> <p>Our school community is anchored in the deep wisdom of Christian learning and service, enabling every child to flourish in body, heart, mind and soul. We pursue an inclusive vision, grounded in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, that all may have life and have it to the full.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly effective leadership drives an ambitious vision which is firmly grounded in Christian theology. This underpins decision making at all levels and is far-reaching in its impact. • Strong and longstanding partnerships support an impressive, innovative and holistic curriculum. This deeply enhances the lives of both adults and pupils within the school community. • Pastoral care is exceptional and embodies the Christian vision. Pupils and staff are valued and nurtured so that all can thrive and flourish. • Collective worship is vibrant, inspiring and inclusive. It enriches the lives of both adults and pupils and forms the bedrock of the school community. • Religious Education (RE) is academically rigorous and provides learners with a rich and engaging curriculum. This enables pupils to make exceptional progress and develop a deep understanding.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance further opportunities to share expertise in the planning and delivery of collective worship. This is in order to strengthen the living out of the vision through enriching partnerships.

Inspection findings

St Clement Danes is proud of its historic and Christian foundation. Securely rooted in theology, leaders have cultivated a deep understanding of what this vision means for the school. Through their sustained commitment and high ambition for all, leaders are innovative and deeply reflective. This is a truly inclusive school where dignity extends to everyone and where all are enabled to flourish.

School leaders, including governors, work closely with the diocese and have firmly rooted partnerships with local churches. This fosters a deep engagement with current thinking in Church school education. Consequently, governors are forward thinking and robust in their monitoring and evaluation. Therefore school policies align with the vision and drive decisions at all levels. Leaders facilitate an impressive range of professional development which enables all staff to grow and flourish in their roles. Induction for all staff embodies the shared distinctly Christian vision. This is a hospitable, generous and outward facing school. Senior leaders utilise their high levels of expertise and support other schools in the diocese. As a result, the school builds strong and fruitful partnerships locally, as demonstrated during the pandemic.

Guided by the vision, high levels of ambition for all pupils underpin a vibrant and holistic curriculum. Enrichment for pupils is exceptional. Pupils are most fortunate to access rich cultural experiences locally. As a result, they thrive through memorable visits to venues such as the Royal Opera House. Every year, pupils perform their school production on a West End stage and everyone is involved. All-encompassing of the vision, staff equip pupils well to fully embrace these opportunities and for pupils this is transformational. The intergenerational project with the Chelsea Pensioners connects pupils meaningfully to the Christian value of service within their community. Pupils speak with excitement about their school's 'big history' of which they are hugely proud. Collaborative work with a local historian and storyteller enhances this learning and sense of identity.

Collective worship forms the bedrock of the school community. This is supported by the longstanding and historic relationships with the churches of St Paul's, St Clement Danes and St Mary-le-Strand. The Christian calendar is an integral part of school life and is celebrated with regular visits to local churches. This enables pupils to develop a deep appreciation of the diversity of Christian worship within the Anglican Church. Highly effective collaborative work with St Paul's Church has led to an impressive, vibrant programme of collective worship. Leaders regularly gather the views of pupils and staff and this feeds into the planning of worship. Diversity is celebrated and worship is invitational, fostering a culture of respect for all faiths. Pupils regularly lead aspects of worship, for instance, through sharing prayers, biblical stories and serving at the Eucharist. Leaders embed a culture of deep reflection and celebration. Therefore, pupils and staff highly value opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer. For example, one member of staff described looking forward to the 'calmness' and the chance to 'be together'. Prayer boxes and tables actively strengthen opportunities for pupils to reflect in class. Pupils speak of 'wow' moments and some describe worship as a time to feel a sense of 'peace'. Celebrations include the annual oranges and lemons service at St Clement Danes Church and learning about the Nativity at Lambeth Palace. Parents describe being amazed and deeply moved by these special occasions.

Pastoral care for pupils and families is far reaching and fully exemplifies the vision. Leaders work tirelessly to remove barriers to learning. For instance, in response to the pandemic, the school embarked on an impressive and impelling series of catch up interventions. Bold decisions, such as the employment of a family therapist, ensure that families are nurtured. This supports pupils at every stage of their school journey. This support is highly personalised




and strong relationships of trust are built between the school and families. Partnerships with the St Clement Danes Educational Foundation offer additional life-changing support to current and past pupils. Wellbeing workshops actively promote positive mental health for both pupils and staff. The introduction of the pupil worry boxes embodies a culture of openness. This means pupils feel safe and 'anchored' by their school. Christian values are lived out through deeply respectful and overwhelmingly positive relationships within the school community. Pupils talk proudly about their school values, such as friendship, and how this supports cohesion. The school hosts regular and well-attended coffee mornings for parents at St Paul's Church. Leaders and parents speak of the profound impact these have on strengthening already well-established relationships.

Pupil leadership is impressive and is made up of the school council, house captains and campaign monitors. Pupils articulate well how they feel empowered to action change in their school and the wider community. Inspired by the life of St Clement, pupils have been profoundly ambitious in their response to social injustice. Pupils actively lead fundraising and have successfully raised money to buy water cubes for a water-aid charity. Responding to a lack of green spaces in urban areas, pupils designed the first 'parklet' in Westminster. Built at the front of the school, this engaged the local community through raising awareness around air pollution. Pupils make strong connections between school values, rooted in stories from the Bible, and how this inspires their own actions. Pupils speak passionately about fundraising for their current chosen charity, Street Child. They are proud of leading a community fun run to raise money and they recognise the powerful impact that this has had. Opportunities for pupils to deeply engage with 'big questions' about ethical and moral issues are wide-ranging. For instance, pupils have been inspired to write 'letters for change', addressing issues of climate change.

RE is highly valued by leaders and fully reflects the requirements of a Church school. Progression within the curriculum is skilfully sequenced and suitably ambitious. The rich and varied curriculum incorporates deep learning about a range of world faiths including Christianity. For example, during an inter-faith week, pupils valued engaging in dialogue with university students, sharing religious beliefs and worldviews. RE leaders are fully supported to access high-quality and exceptional levels of professional development. This includes sharing their expertise with Christian organisations, such as Wintershall, enriching their own professional development. Collaborations with other schools have been particularly impactful, for instance, shared moderation has supported the use of assessment. Teachers are highly skilful in their use of questioning and this supports a strong culture of respect where pupils learn to disagree well. The impact of this is that RE is cherished.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>High levels of expertise and skilful planning ensure that pupils make exceptional levels of progress in RE. This includes those pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Suitably robust monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning by leaders maintains high standards. The development of religious literacy and skills for understanding sacred texts, greatly enhances learning. High levels of challenge are fully embedded and stretch pupils. Lessons are effective as they build on pupils' skills and prior knowledge.</p>			
Information				
School	St Clement Danes Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	6 July 2023	
URN	101127	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	London	Pupils on roll	214	
Headteacher	Patricia Coxhead			
Chair of Governors	Daniel Bentham			
Inspector	Rachel Croft	No.	2126	