

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Burdett-Coutts and Townshend Foundation CofE VA Primary School	
Address	Rochester Street, Westminster, SW1P 2QQ
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p>At Burdett-Coutts, we encourage our learners to be ambitious for themselves and for others. We challenge and support them in questioning the world and in finding solutions. Our Christian values of friendship, compassion and service underpin our vision.</p> <p>'I can do all things through Him who gives me strength' Philippians 4:13</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear Christian vision of encouraging learners to be ambitious, underpinned by the values of friendship, compassion and service, drives everything and everyone at Burdett-Coutts. Through monitoring and evaluation, leaders continue to ensure that its biblical and theological rootedness remains inclusive for people of all backgrounds. • Engaging with collective worship is a strength of the school. Pupils, parents and staff are spiritually nurtured through a rich tradition of daily worship. • Pupils learn about global issues and speak enthusiastically about their concerns for the environment. They discuss issues of social injustice. However, finding ways to take action and make a difference within the wider community is less-well developed. • Everyone is included and cared for. Pupils and adults go to great lengths to ensure that this is a reality in all aspects of school life. This is particularly evident in religious education (RE) where Christianity, other world faiths and worldviews are valued and pupils speak powerfully about their own and others' beliefs. • Opportunities provided by the school's location in the heart of the capital are exploited to the full. Pupils have many positive experiences in local places of worship from a diverse range of religions. Musical talent is strongly nurtured as part of their spiritual development and pupils have many opportunities to perform in settings such as St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.



Areas for development

- Continue to closely evaluate the distinctive Christian vision so that it explicitly applies and is inclusive to all. Continue to develop a shared language that enables everyone to articulate the vision clearly.
- Ensure that all pupils are actively engaged in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of collective worship, so that pupils from all backgrounds find worship meaningful and inclusive.
- Encourage pupils to go beyond a sense of compassion and develop a concern for social justice so that they can become courageous advocates for change.

Inspection findings

The headteacher has ensured that the Christian vision, encouraging learners to be ambitious, drives all areas of school life for everyone. The values of friendship, compassion and service that underpin the vision, drove high-quality provision during the pandemic. This included all pupils having access to appropriate technology at school or at home. Parents rightly believe that staff know their pupils extremely well. They appreciate the high level of compassionate, individual care staff provide. For example, military families are very well-supported. Staff are mindful of the effect that a parent being away from home can have on a particular pupil. Pastoral care is exemplary, staff ensure that all pupils eat breakfast, so they are ready to learn each day. Staff help parents when applying for secondary schools and encourage them to be ambitious about their choices. All areas of life are supported. Parents know they can approach school with concerns but state they rarely need to do this as staff have already identified those issues.

Leaders work closely with the diocese, and this is evident in their sound understanding of current thinking in Church school education. Governors ensure that the vision is driving everything and that the encouragement, to be ambitious, is embraced by the pupils. They carefully monitor and evaluate the impact and influence of the vision. This is leading them to ensure that its biblical underpinning and inclusive practice are fully aligned. They are currently reviewing the admissions policy to ensure that it meets the needs of their diverse community. The strategic role of the school in ensuring pupil numbers has been challenging over recent years. Strong leadership is now driving improvements in all areas of school life and pupil numbers are increasing. As its reputation improves the positive profile of this Church school is growing in the local community.

Driven by the Christian vision, links with the local church are strong. Both the vicar and curate are active members of the governing body. They lead highly engaging and inspirational collective worship in the church on a weekly basis. Pupils from Nursery to Year 6 attend and participate as choir members, readers and pianists. They enjoy going into the church and hearing the vicar's stories. Pupils are inspired by collective worship and the way in which they are given opportunities to grow spiritually, for example 'we love to sit quietly and reflect'. They feel comfortable in church and respond while the vicar is speaking, giving powerful insights into persevering. This is an explicit example of how the Christian vision is part of the everyday language of the school. Pupils enjoy collective worship and are clear that everyone feels included. They state 'you do not feel left out if you don't believe in God, you just bow your head in respect, but you don't have to pray'. The values really help with this, friendship, compassion and service are key to everything. They are for everyone, whatever their background or belief. Pupils say they are keen to become more actively involved in evaluating their collective worship. This is already a key priority for leaders who are keen to re-establish a robust system to review the impact of worship across the school community.

Inspired by the Christian vision, pupils are passionate about protecting the environment and speak enthusiastically about the 'Earth Day' that they celebrated last year. They learn about global issues but do not at present have a clear idea about what they can do to make a difference. The pupils on the school council have been working hard to enhance the school environment, including improvements they have made to playtimes. They have helped to sort out arrangements for which classes use the equipment and provided basketball hoops and balls to use. This shows they are having a positive impact on issues in their own school environment. However, they are unable to understand how they could advocate, and participate in, actions towards a more just and sustainable world.

Living well together is key to everything that happens at the school and pupils' behaviour is




good. Challenging behaviour is dealt with in a firm but positive way. Individual children are supported to understand why particular behaviour is not acceptable. The outcomes are always constructive, and pupils are treated fairly. Relationships of trust extend to the whole family, not just the pupils, and this is greatly appreciated by parents. The flourishing of adults as well as pupils is key. Staff are extremely well-supported and particularly appreciate the regular wellbeing days which they are provided with. Governors support the wellbeing of the headteacher through regular meetings and monitoring her workload.

Spiritual development is well-supported at school. Spirituality runs as a strong theme through everything. A wide range of opportunities are provided for enhancing pupils' spiritual lives. For example, Year 6 took part in a remembrance project at Westminster Abbey which had a powerful impact on them. A rich and long-standing musical tradition is highly valued by everyone, greatly enhancing their spiritual development. All pupils have the opportunity to learn to play instruments and perform both in school and in the wider community. Pupils and parents really appreciate how this enhances their spiritual lives, for example singing and bellringing at a eucharist in Saint Paul's Cathedral.

RE is carefully planned and includes a good balance of theology, philosophy and social science. Pupils engage well with the big questions which are posed around all beliefs and are keen to discuss these. They visit many local places of worship. Pupils talk about issues such as primary school pupils fasting during Ramadan and are thoughtfully respectful of each other's views. Pupils in the Nursery and Reception Years start to think about appropriate questions through their early years' framework. Pupils engage with religious text and quote specific sections of the Quran which speak to them. They are able to explain how there are strong similarities between that text and the sayings of Jesus in the Christian gospels.

Adults and pupils are thriving at the school because of their shared Christian vision. It drives all actions. Leaders are continuing to reflect on how they can ensure that it is completely inclusive to people of all backgrounds. That openness to keep moving onwards and not to settle for less than the best is palpable. They aspire to continue providing the very best learning experiences for every pupil, in a caring, explicitly inclusive community. This is taking them forward onto the next stage of their exciting journey as a Church school.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	<p>The carefully planned RE curriculum is well taught and pupils are gaining a good understanding of Christianity and a range of world religions and worldviews. They discuss core theological concepts with confidence and enthusiasm. Pupils make good progress as a result of the rich and engaging curriculum.</p>			
Information				
School	Burdett-Coutts and Townshend Foundation CofE VA Primary School	Inspection date	17 October 2022	
URN	101122	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	London	Pupils on roll	144	
Headteacher	Yvonne Barnett			
Chair of Governors	Narissa Bowles			
Inspector	Marion Standing	No.	971	