

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

### Ruardean Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

Love of Learning, Love of Life and Love of One Another

The vision holds three strands: all of equal importance. These allow our pupils to flourish as aspirational human beings through their understanding of how learning is a lifelong passion which opens many doors of opportunity. We wish our pupils to delight in the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge providing them with the tools to face the adversities and celebrations within life. Our vision is rooted in one of Jesus' two main commandments: 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself' Matthew 22:39. As a school community, we show respect and kindness to one another and value the preciousness of each person's uniqueness.

Ruardean 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 Christian vision is powerfully lived out in this loving and harmonious school community. Pupils and adults flourish as unique individuals who develop a love of learning, life and each other.
- School leaders and staff are whole-hearted about providing a curriculum that enables pupils, in all their diversity, to grow holistically. This is particularly evident in the nurturing care and specialist provision for pupils who have special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Collective worship is a special time of unity and encouragement within the school day. Pupils and adults develop spiritually as they reflect together on life's celebrations and challenges.
- School leaders ensure that there is a carefully considered curriculum for religious education (RE). It enables pupils to show respect as they develop an understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Pupils demonstrate a mature understanding of equity as they treat each other with respect and kindness. They extend a growing sense of responsibility and injustice to make a positive difference in the wider world.

#### Development Points

- Strengthen the processes that monitor and evaluate the impact of the Christian vision on the school community. This is to support leaders in their decision-making and secure the school's foundation as a Church school.
- Extend the opportunities to experience spontaneous prayer and reflection. This is to support adults and pupils in their spiritual flourishing and wellbeing.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

Christian love is at the hallmark of this school. Committed leaders and staff demonstrate love that is patient and kind as they enable pupils to enjoy living and learning. They are relentless in their ambition for pupils to be the best versions of themselves that they can be. Pupils, with wide-ranging needs and strengths, are cherished and nurtured. Consequently, they grow in self-belief as unique individuals. They learn to live well together through embedded Christian values of 'respect, friendship, perseverance, creativity, responsibility and hope. The impact of these on the school community's care and support for each other is deeply apparent. School leaders are whole-hearted about ensuring that the vision permeates school life. However, processes that enable leaders at all levels to evaluate and build rigorously on the school's Christian foundations are underdeveloped.

### Vision and Curriculum

Devoted school leaders and staff provide an ambitious curriculum that enables individual pupils to 'love learning.' The Christian vision drives their zeal for inclusion and equality. Within this small, loving school, staff know and understand their pupils extremely well. Consequently, they provide tailored levels of support and challenge. This results in confident learners who feel loved and valued. Perseverance that leads to progress is celebrated. This motivates self-belief and fuels further endeavour. The specific needs of pupils who have high level SEND in terms of communication and interaction are met in a specialist unit. The Christian vision is profoundly evident in the unconditional love and care that is extended to pupils throughout the school. Targeted programmes, such as those to support pupils socially and emotionally, empower them to be ready and able to learn. The curriculum promotes personal wellbeing and spiritual growth. Pupils reflect and talk about moments of joy and wonder as well as moments of sadness and disappointment. They learn to express their own thoughts and feelings as well as developing a respect for the viewpoints of others. Pupils are enthusiastic about the experiences offered to them outside of school, such as a visit to the Houses of Parliament. These opportunities extend pupils' understanding of the wider world and enrich their love of life.

### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Jesus' commandment to 'love thy neighbour as thyself' is lived out in relationships throughout the school. Pupils take responsibility for those who are younger and those who they understand need gentle understanding and care. They feel strongly that things should be fair, recognising instinctively that some people need more help for things to be equitable. The school's character and vision enable pupils to be aware of injustices in the wider world. They enjoy making a difference in the local community. As illustrated by them planting daffodils, litter-picking and contributing to the local food bank. Carefully selected resources enable pupils to learn about injustices globally. They are motivated to act and excited about making a positive difference. For example, the youngest pupils who were eager to raise funds to adopt a pangolin when they learned about endangered animals.

### Religious Education

School leaders are committed to ensuring that RE is a subject of high importance. They understand its unique place in preparing pupils to live well in a world of diversity. The school develops subject knowledge and understanding by drawing on the diocese's expertise. Leaders review the curriculum to ensure that it is aspirational. Pupils who have SEND are given every opportunity to contribute and access learning. Together, pupils discuss and debate philosophical ideas within a well-established culture of curiosity and respect. School leaders design the RE curriculum thoughtfully and creatively. It ensures that pupils' knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious viewpoints develop year on year. The curriculum is notably strengthened by welcoming visitors and visiting places of worship. These encounters impact significantly on the pupils' respect for people with different faith and worldview perspectives.



### Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a cherished time of joy and calm for this close school community. Pupils and adults draw strength and reassurance from coming together into an atmosphere that inspires awe, wonder and love. Spirits are lifted and enriched especially through heartfelt singing. Pupils, including those considered vulnerable and those who have SEND, are warmly welcomed and supported. This is exemplified as worship leaders and the whole school frequently use sign language. Such consideration of each other's needs is indicative of love in action and results in the deep spiritual experience of belonging. Collective worship provides a rich time of spiritual comfort for pupils and adults. They trust each other enough to be vulnerable as they reflect together on life's joys and sorrows. Pupils talk about spirituality as the 'golden glue' that helps them when they feel 'broken' and 'cracked'. Pupils are invited to share in prayers led by adult and pupil worship leaders. However, pupils are less familiar with hearing or saying prayers that are an instinctive response to their feelings. This limits people in understanding that individuals can find peace and wellbeing by talking to God anytime and anywhere. Worship enables pupils to make meaningful connections between their own experiences, the vision, values and Christian teaching. For example, pupils describe their feelings of 'loving life' using a verse from the Bible, 'Live life in all its fullness' John 10:10. A strong relationship with clergy and members of the local parish church enriches worship. On a weekly basis, they lead worship that extends the pupils' understanding of Bible stories and Anglican traditions.

### Vision and School Culture

The Christian vision is embedded in relationships of respect and compassion throughout the school. Staff value being trusted by school leaders. Their ideas are appreciated and they are encouraged to develop as unique individuals. This enables them to flourish personally and professionally. A profound 'love of each other' sustains this school community in times of adversity. Leaders and staff demonstrate a sacrificial love as they give above and beyond to seek the best for the pupils in their care. Therefore, pupils flourish in their 'love of learning' and 'love of life'. Parents and carers appreciate how staff work considerately with them to secure the best outcomes for individual pupils. Pupils learn how to live well with others. They are supported to forgive and resolve disagreements, restoring the peace and harmony that prevail within this school. Families delight in being able to celebrate festivals such as Christmas and Easter together in the village church. These special times are a source of great joy and spiritual refreshment for those involved. The Christian vision is lived out as pupils and adults learn, love and laugh together.

## Information

Address	School Road, Ruardean, Gloucestershire, GL17 9XQ		
Date	29 April 2026	URN	115647
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	77
Diocese	Gloucester		
Headteacher	Ione Haroun		
Chair of Governors	Ian Lavery		
Inspector	Angela Daniel		