



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

<b>Brent Knoll Church of England VC Primary School</b>	
Address	Brent Street, Brent Knoll, TA9 4EQ

### School vision

We are a Church school and through our distinct Christian values we enrich the lives of our children and create an environment where everyone has the opportunity to ‘Let their light Shine’ (Matthew 5:16)

Our values are brought to life through our Love of Learning; our Faith; our Respect and our Partnerships

### School strengths

- The inspirational leadership of the Christian vision has a powerful impact on the whole school community. This positively affects pupils’ learning, behaviour and wellbeing.
- The school’s exciting and engaging curriculum reflects the Christian vision by enabling pupils to ‘let their light shine’ through their ‘love of learning’.
- Collective worship is the heartbeat of daily life at Brent Knoll. This is because it provides meaningful moments in which all can flourish spiritually.
- An exceptionally supportive and caring culture is inspired by the vision. Consequently, this enables all to be treated well and thrive.
- Very effective leadership in religious education (RE) enables pupils to learn through a challenging and relevant curriculum. This has a positive impact on their understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews, including Christianity.

### Areas for development

- Enhance the impact of monitoring of aspects of learning including developments in spirituality and opportunities for pupils to challenge injustice. This is to further strengthen the way the vision guides the school’s growth as a Church school.
- Embed the school’s shared understanding of spiritual development across the school. This is to enhance the way it impacts on pupils’ learning and spiritual flourishing.
- Extend opportunities for pupils to engage with issues of justice across the curriculum. This is to strengthen the way they are enabled to act as agents for change in the local community and wider world.

### Inspection findings

The inspirational leadership team has ensured that a deeply Christian vision is firmly embedded at Brent Knoll. Rooted in words from St Matthew’s Gospel, the vision unites the whole school community with a strong sense of meaning and purpose. They promote a tangible sense of spirituality that sustains daily life at school. The ambitious language of the vision ensures the school is full of opportunities for pupils and adults to fulfil their dreams. Consequently, it encourages aspiration and enthusiasm and has a positive impact on pupils’ learning and behaviour. The school

benefits from a close partnership with other similar Church schools within the multi-academy trust (MAT). In this way, meaningful opportunities are provided for staff to collaborate, enabling them and colleagues to shine. Relevant professional development from the diocese enhances the Christian foundation of the school. This benefits staff development and pupils' learning. The beneficial contributions of local church members enable pupils and adults to make frequent visits for special services. This creates a strong sense of the school's close spiritual partnership with the church. Parents highly praise the staff and value the happy, loving culture created by the vision. Governors and trust leaders know the school well. However, some aspects of the way the vision impacts on the school are not always evaluated.

The school's exciting curriculum is explicitly shaped by its Christian vision. It provides rich and creative experiences enabling the vision to be a living reality. Extra-curricular activities provide an exceptional range of ways to strengthen pupils' interests and talents. A wide variety of trips and visitors combined with regular participation in local sports and arts festivals enhance pupils' learning. As a result of school leaders' actions, the potential of pupils identified as disadvantaged is being transformed for the better. Consequently, pupils enjoy their learning and value their time in school. Staff and pupils have a shared understanding of spirituality which is at an early stage. Activities to promote spirituality are established within the curriculum. Experiences include an annual walk up the nearby hill on Ascension Day and the exchange of Bibles between pupils. However the impact of these on pupils' spiritual development is inconsistent.

Collective worship embeds the school's vision and associated values in their biblical roots. The vision promotes a strong sense of a community which encourages all to 'let their lights shine'. Consequently, it provides moments for pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. For example, all are invited to reflect on the way Daniel needed to show endurance during his time in the Lion's Den. This value is made very real to pupils and adults through an endurance car ride taking place on behalf of the school. Older pupils particularly value the opportunity to hold worship in their own class groups. They recognise it provides the space for them to express their thoughts in greater depth. These pupils carefully and sensitively plan and lead worship for younger ones recognising their impact. Worship empowers pupils and adults to participate and contribute effectively. Times of quiet, reflection, prayer and joyous singing are embedded. Evaluations by pupils affirm its positive impact on pupils' wellbeing and spiritual flourishing.

Very caring relationships, inspired by the strong desire to enable all to shine are central to life at Brent Knoll. This is because members of the school support one another so that all can feel cherished. Pupils identified as disadvantaged are supported very effectively. Consequently, the vision promotes an inclusive, vibrant community where adults and pupils are treated well. The school is a place where interactions are based on mutual respect. A strong staff culture of equality and teamwork, ensure that all feel listened to and highly valued. Leaders promote very effective strategies for staff mental health and wellbeing. Staff wellbeing and good mental health is a high priority with school and trust leaders. Roles played by older pupils who support the younger ones have a very beneficial impact. These pupils promote loyal and deep relationships across the age groups. Pupils talk with understanding and empathy about the way they welcome new arrivals and enable them to thrive.

The school's vision creates a respectful culture of justice and responsibility. As a result, school is a place where interactions are based on mutual respect and trust. This strengthens the sense of a cohesive community. Pupils share their joy of singing and the arts with the church and the local community where they participate in a wide selection of festivals. These strong partnerships widen pupils' understanding of their immediate community beyond school. Opportunities exist in the curriculum for pupils to learn about issues around justice and role models who have challenged injustice. Pupils are driven to 'make life better' for some local hens. They actively work to support



people and animals. However, taking action as agents of change is not embedded across the school.

Inspirational leadership ensures that RE has a powerful impact on the life of the school. It is motivating and challenging, fully focussed on meeting the needs of pupils. The RE curriculum is well-planned and effectively balanced. Pupils recognise its relevance to their lives. In this way, they develop an understanding and respect for people from a range of faiths and worldviews. Staff make good use of the village church as a resource for learning about Christianity. Creating their own 'big frieze' which tells the pupils' story of Christianity has a significant impact on enhancing their understanding. Visits are made from leaders of faiths within the region to good effect. Pupils are encouraged to reflect and think about their own views and beliefs and those of others. The use of questioning enhances pupils' engagement in RE. Stimulating discussions, provoking insightful responses, also make a substantial contribution to spiritual development in RE. Relevant training has a beneficial impact on school leaders who in turn, support staff at Brent Knoll and schools within the MAT.

The inspection findings indicate that Brent Knoll Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church School.

Information			
Inspection date	7 May 2024	URN	146942
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	146
Diocese	Bath & Wells		
MAT/Federation	Wessex Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Christopher Burman		
Chair	Sue Owen		
Inspector	Daphne Spitzer	No.	37