

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Stone with Woodford C of E Primary Academy formerly VC			
Address	Stone, Berkeley, Gloucestershire. GL13 9JX		
Date of inspection	11 June 2019	Status of school	Primary Academy inspected as Voluntary Controlled.
Diocese	Gloucester	URN	139987

Overall Judgement	Grade	Good
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?		
Additional Judgement		
The impact of collective worship	Grade	Good

School context

Stone with Woodford C of E Academy is a smaller than average primary school with 96 pupils on roll. The school has a low level of religious and cultural diversity and very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below the national average. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below the national average. The school became an Academy in August 2013. The majority of the teaching staff have been newly appointed since the last inspection.

The school's Christian vision

'Educating Children For Life'
Underpinned by 'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Key findings

- The strong Christian leadership of the headteacher, supported by all staff, ensures that all members of the community know that they are valued, loved and constantly supported as part of God's family.
- Pupils and staff live out and articulate the school's Christian values so that Stone with Woodford is a harmonious, respectful and reflective community.
- All pupils experience significant curricular and extra-curricular opportunities that contribute positively to their spiritual, moral and cultural development. As a result, pupils are confident, aspirational and happy in their daily lives.
- There is a proactive commitment to the wider community, to the work of charities and to social action locally, nationally and internationally. The vision is fully achieved in this respect because pupils are very mindful of their responsibilities to others and to their stewardship of God's world.
- The Christian vision underpins all collective worship and religious education (RE) as children reflect on how each learning opportunity deepens their understanding of it.

Areas for development

- Increase opportunities for pupils of all ages to independently plan, lead and evaluate acts of collective worship and so strengthen their spiritual development.
- Extend the pupils' experience of diversity and difference, by enabling them to meet people from a range of faiths more frequently.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Stone with Woodford is a caring and inclusive Christian community, with a clear biblically linked vision of 'educating for life in all its fullness'. This is epitomised by the headteacher's desire to harness the school's Christian values to 'develop the whole child, as well as the staff supporting them'. These carefully selected Christian values are referred to by the whole community. This has resulted in positive relationships with clear evidence of love and care throughout. The headteacher, staff and governors have worked as a cohesive team to ensure that the school has addressed the areas for development from the previous inspection report. This has been achieved through effective procedures for the induction of new staff. Consequently, there is a clear feeling of value throughout the staff, whatever their role. The governors express their support for the way the school is promoting its Christian ethos, particularly through the Ethos committee. Together with school leaders, they have accurately self-evaluated the school's strengths and clearly identified areas to improve, to ensure that all staff and learner's needs are fully met. Strong links with the local church ensure that the school is at the heart of the community. The recently appointed vicar sees the school as an important part of his ministry and continues the tradition of welcoming and attending the school for Christian festivals and other services. The school has a very effective partnership with parents who describe the school as having a clear Christian vision that embraces all. The result is that they feel that they contribute to the life of the school, which positively benefits the whole community. The school effectively meets the statutory requirements for religious education (RE) and collective worship.

Academic achievement and attendance figures have been consistently above national averages since the last inspection, particularly for those who are more vulnerable. This is largely attributed to the school's focus on its Christian vision of promoting 'life in all its fullness'. There are carefully planned and highly engaging activities during lessons as well as a wide range of extra-curricular learning opportunities. These are designed to develop the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. The school has developed a shared understanding of spirituality and how spiritual development can be encouraged. Times for prayer and quiet thoughts are actively encouraged through explicit curriculum planning and the reflective areas in and around school. Both children and staff talk enthusiastically of the importance of Christian values in their lives. Strong links between these and Biblical teaching are carefully planned for and underpin the learning and actions of all those linked to the school. As a result, there is clear evidence of respect and care in the way children behave towards their peers. The children's understanding of Christianity as a multicultural faith is enhanced through their link school in Genevri. They are able to articulate their understanding of the challenges faced by others, both locally as well as around the world. They are knowledgeable and make informed choices for themselves and for their school, such as when they are deciding upon charitable support initiatives.

The school vision of 'educating for life' is evident in the pupils' positive attitudes towards their school community. There is a wide range of activities, festive celebrations and fundraising events, alongside the development of strong local links. Parents describe ways in which the distinctive Christian character of the school is clearly expressed by staff. The result is that they have an excellent understanding of what the school stands for and this leads to 'enrichment for all beyond the academic'. The children display a clear understanding of and respect for difference and diversity. As a result, the school's inclusive nature ensures that all are welcomed, celebrated and enabled to flourish. There is an emphasis on caring for the whole child and, in particular, their mental health. Consequently, all children are confident, articulate and thoughtful across the full ability range.

Daily acts of biblically-referenced collective worship are central to the vision and spiritual life of the school. They are an important and sacred part of the day and children are able to talk about the Christian values that underpin them. They are also able to explain how they can apply key messages to their own lives. As a result, the key messages permeate all aspects of school life and are clearly visible throughout the setting. However, there are not sufficient opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship, to further enhance their spiritual development. Governor monitoring has identified that worship provides times of quiet and stillness in the school day, whilst also being highly interactive with joyous singing. This has also led to the development of a rich and varied programme of themes, which foster a high level of engagement. There is a varied programme of adult collective worship leaders including a particularly dedicated and enthusiastic 'Open The Book' team from the neighbouring church. Pupils demonstrate a secure understanding of Christian festivals with pupil knowledge enhanced through services at church. They are also able to articulate their understanding of the Trinity. Times of

reflection and prayer, which are an integral part of worship, promote thought and contemplation. As a result, children say that they reflect and pray both at home and at school, often thinking back over the key messages of each day.

In keeping with the school's Christian vision of 'educating for life', Religious Education lessons are effectively planned. There is an appropriate emphasis on the stories of Jesus and it meets the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. The children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity is good, supported by the introduction of the 'Understanding Christianity' resource. Pupils speak with love, care and good knowledge, as they learn about and learn from religion. However, the school does not provide sufficient opportunity for pupils to experience other faiths, to fully appreciate the world's diversity. 'Big Questions' about meaning and purpose enrich the knowledge and understanding of all, with strong links made to the school values. Even the youngest pupils are adept at applying religious principles to moral and ethical dilemmas, engaging maturely in discussions and debates. Links with other local schools, representatives from the diocese and within their local RE Hub, ensure that the school has adapted well to effectively deliver the new curriculum changes. Leaders' attendance at a variety of diocesan courses has ensured that they remain up-to-date with recent developments. Effective marking and feedback procedures further raise standards of attainment, ensuring pupils enjoy RE lessons and recognise its importance in their lives.

Headteacher	Kim McCalmont
Inspector's name and number	David Scorer 841