

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Stoborough Church of England Primary School

Vision

We are one family: Love for ourselves, for each other and for the world.

We care about our local and global community and share God's love and wisdom in all that we do. As members of our Stoborough School family, children become confident individuals, who develop a life-long love of learning and a passion and commitment for improving the world around them. Our pupils learn to take care of themselves and show care to each other, enabling them to flourish and make a positive difference in whatever they do.

'Let all that you do be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14.

Stoborough 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.

Strengths

- The Christian vision is at the very heart of the school. Leaders have thoughtfully rooted the vision and associated values in biblical teaching, responding to the needs of their community. Both effectively drive the direction of this warm and welcoming Church school.
- Leaders are intentional in supporting pupils to have love for themselves, placing high priority on developing confidence and self-esteem. This helps pupils to build secure foundations and a desire to show 'love for each other and for the world'.
- Inspired by the vision, opportunities for pupils to experience a wide range of leadership responsibilities are given. Within a safe and nurturing environment, they learn how they can make a difference in their wider world.
- The associated Christian value of curiosity supports the spiritual flourishing of pupils. Leaders ensure that opportunities to foster this are mapped out in the curriculum. Pupils are also invited to reflect on a weekly 'big question' which develops their curiosity.
- Engaging in both the local and global community is at the heart of the school's vision. Consequently, the school places great importance on engaging with a wide range of key partners including the diocese, Lady St Mary's Church and the Coastal Learning Partnership. These partnerships are of mutual benefit.

Development Points

- Review aspects of the religious education (RE) curriculum to ensure that pupils develop a deeper understanding of Christianity as a global diverse living faith.
- Extend opportunities for the spiritual flourishing of the wider staff team through collective worship.



Inspection Findings

A strong and well-considered Christian vision effectively steers the direction of this warm and welcoming Church of England school. The school's strapline 'We are one family: Love for ourselves, for each other and for the world' is authentically lived out, and as a result this village school is at the heart of the local community. Leaders know and understand their community. They place great value on developing pupils' confidence and self-esteem and equip them to show love and compassion to one another. Pupils describe the welcome they receive at Stoborough upon joining and how this quickly develops a strong sense of belonging. Members of the local governing board provide a visible presence. They promote and uphold the school's Christian foundation and regularly consider how it is upheld through policy and practice. They work collaboratively with school and trust leaders to monitor the effectiveness of the school as a Church school.

The vision to develop a 'life-long love of learning' shapes and inspires the curriculum offer at Stoborough. Leaders enrich pupils' learning through opportunities to engage with all that the local culture provides. A wide range of extra-curricular activities such as eco club, forest school and gardening club encourage pupils to be good stewards of their local area. Aligning with the Coastal Learning Partnership's vision, leaders seek to 'broaden pupils' horizons' by introducing them to other cultures and experiences, such as a residential trip to London. Great care is taken to nurture those who may be vulnerable or those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Parents recognise the positive impact this has upon the flourishing of their children. A developing and shared understanding of spirituality encourages pupils to think about self, others and beyond. The spirituality curriculum intentionally maps out opportunities within the wider curriculum for pupils to reflect and engage as spiritual beings. In response to pupil feedback, pupils enjoy the weekly session set aside to reflect upon the big question which develops their curiosity and wider thinking. Parents often engage in these discussions at home and speak of the depth of thinking that these questions provoke.

The rhythm of invitational and inclusive collective worship forms an important part of each school day and is well supported by local clergy. Worship is thoughtfully planned and effectively promotes the school's Christian vision. Regular opportunities are given for pupils to reflect on big questions such as 'how would you go the extra mile for your friend this week'. Questions like this challenge pupils to make a positive contribution to their community. The impact of collective worship on pupils is evident. One pupil, for example, eagerly shared how her passion for looking after the environment was sparked through an act of worship. While worship clearly supports the spiritual flourishing of pupils, opportunities for the spiritual flourishing of staff is more limited. Prayer is a significant part of the worshipping life of the school and the pupils' own school prayer is often used as part of worship. Pupils speak meaningfully of the wider moments for prayer through the use prayer pebbles in each classroom which allow quiet moments to say a sorry, please or thank you prayer.

Leaders have created a culture where people are treated exceptionally well. This is driven by the school's Christian vision which is underpinned by 1 Corinthians 16:14 'Let all that you do be done in love'. As a result, leaders are growing a compassionate community. Pupils confidently express how they show love to one another through, for example, a smile or an invitation to join in with a playground game. Parents are quick to share examples of love in action. They readily speak of how they benefit from being part of this village school. Governors describe how there is a 'joyousness about the place'. A recently revised behaviour policy based upon a therapeutic thinking approach encourages staff to be curious and reflective about their own practice, as well as the behaviour of pupils. This provides a clear framework within which a wide range of strategies and approaches are used to support positive



behaviour. This helps to meet the needs of pupils and teaches them to live well together. The mental health and wellbeing of pupils and adults is prioritised. Staff describe the school as a 'safe place' and a place in which they are supported to flourish professionally. Several staff have progressed in their career as a direct result from training and opportunities given by leaders.

RE is valued and given high priority at Stoborough. The RE curriculum has recently been reviewed and leaders have outlined a clear progression of what is to be taught and when. This is being supplemented by the use of high-quality resources. These enable pupils to develop a secure understanding of Christianity alongside worldviews and religions. Although pupils know that there are Christians living in other parts of the world, they do not have sufficient opportunities to learn more deeply about Christianity as a global diverse living faith. Staff receive training and guidance from both the RE leader and the diocese. The RE leader is well supported by the church school flourishing hub. The diocese and trust have established this hub to help keep the Christian foundation central to the life of the school. Consequently, teaching staff are being equipped to deliver the newly revised RE curriculum with greater confidence.

Pupils enjoy learning about a range of religions and worldviews. They take great pride in their work. The knowledge organisers shared at the beginning of each unit are a helpful point of reference for both pupils and teachers. Pupils are progressing well in the subject because teachers use assessment effectively. Assessment practices such as Flashback Four have recently been introduced by teachers to support retrieval. This approach is proving an effective tool in helping pupils to recall prior learning. Teachers carefully monitor and evaluate assessment outcomes, using this information to effectively inform future planning and provision. As a result, teachers are being better equipped to support pupils' progress.

The school's Christian vision actively encourages pupils to 'make a positive difference in whatever they do'. They are given many opportunities to 'show care to each other' by taking on leadership roles such as sports ambassadors, play leaders, house captains, pupil governors and buddies. These roles teach them how to serve and show compassion to one another. Pupils have a genuine voice within their school and the local area and can speak passionately about the impact they have made within their local community. One recent example is their request to the local council to reduce the current speed limit on their local causeway. Pupils made this request in response to feeling unsafe walking to school. Other examples of their impact locally can be seen through their involvement with organisations such as the National Trust and Planet Purbeck where pupils learn to take responsibility to be good stewards of their local area. Further afield, they have learned the importance of making ethical choices. Through projects such as 'think global, act local' pupils have explored justice and sustainability for people and the planet through fair trade. Leaders are outward looking and recognise the value in engaging with a wide range of key partners. Partnerships with the diocese, Lady St Mary's Church and the Coastal Learning Partnership are extremely positive and are of mutual benefit to those involved. Together they are making a positive difference, enabling both pupils and adults within this village school to flourish.

Information

Address	Corfe Road, Stoborough, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5AD		
Date	3 February 2025	URN	150247
Type of school	Academy (former Voluntary Aided)	No. of pupils	190
Diocese	Salisbury		
MAT	Coastal Learning Partnership		
Headteacher	Jemma Murray		
Chair of Governors	Nathaniel Hobby		
Inspector	Jayne Pavlou		