

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Cumnor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Oxford Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PQ

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Diocese	Oxford
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Date of inspection	21 September 2017
Date of last inspection	November 2012
Type of school and unique reference number	Voluntary Controlled Primary 123146
Headteacher	Ed Read
Inspector's name and number	Lizzie McWhirter 244

School context

Currently there are 208 pupils on roll who are mainly from a White British background. The proportion of pupils who are on free school meals or for whom English is an additional language is below the national average. The proportion of pupils who are eligible for special needs support is in line with the national average. The headteacher has been in post since January 2013 and a new vicar was appointed in March 2017. Religious education [RE] is led by a teacher with no full time class commitment.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Cumnor as a Church of England school are good

- This is a welcoming, Christian family community where a genuine love and care for each pupil and adult enables everyone to succeed in their academic and personal development.
- Positive relationships at all levels are rooted in the school's Christian values.
- Dedicated staff, clergy and governors are committed to the school's Christian ethos and vision which is valued by parents.

Areas to improve

- Ensure the evaluation of collective worship involves and engages pupils, staff and governors to inform future planning, quality and direction.
- Embed the monitoring of RE by governors to support the RE subject leader in her role.
- Take forward the desire and vision to strengthen the partnership with the parish church and enrich the community life of the school and church in Cumnor on its onward journey.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners

This is a welcoming, Christian family community where a genuine love and care for each pupil and adult enables everyone to succeed in their academic and personal development. Christian values enable pupils to thrive and be successful. Indeed, these six aspects which permeate every area of school life, which include a passion for learning, striving for excellence and loving others. This is attributed to the strong family environment and its

caring and nurturing ethos. In addition, positive relationships at all levels are rooted in the school's Christian values. For example, teachers are good role models in demonstrating love in action and pupils are eager to show support for those less fortunate than themselves. Dedicated and stable staff, clergy and governors are committed to the school's Christian ethos and vision, which is valued by parents. Staff affirm that pupils are happy and they too have 'pride in working for such a lovely and caring inclusive school which values every person and cares about the needs of whole child'. They enjoy seeing former pupils 'go on to many diverse and wonderful careers'. Attendance is good as pupils want to be here and 'the atmosphere is right so academic learning flourishes'. Exclusions are rare and any unacceptable behaviour is handled by a love of the pupil within a spirit of love and encouragement to be successful. Pupils make good progress across all age groups, including any vulnerable pupils, with results above national and local averages. This is attributed to the focus on knowing individual pupils extraordinarily well and putting in place the strategies he or she needs to be successful within a nurturing Christian environment. Pupils acknowledge that, 'if you have a passion for learning, you might want to persevere, push yourself and find your limits as the world is your oyster. You can enjoy trying again.' In addition, all pupils have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, with a very good level of uptake. Pupils say they enjoy playing for the Christmas concert and would welcome playing for more church services as well as for worship taking place in school. Pupils are inspired by the exciting curriculum which includes forest school, residential visits and Olympian visitors. This leads to good SMSC provision. Some pupils have roles and responsibilities, such as anti-bullying ambassadors. In practice, pupils and adults confirm no real evidence of bullying because of the positive relationships and policies and practices which exist. Worship and RE make good contributions to pupils' personal and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and to the Christian character of the school. RE enjoys a high profile and is linked to the Christian values of the school. Pupils say they find RE both exciting and challenging when they engage in projects to 'learn about other religions in the world'. Visits to St Michael's Church include involvement in a successful prayer week in May 2017. Visits take place to other places of worship, such as the Oxford Mosque by Year 5 and the synagogue by Year 2 and Year 4. Such visits enhance pupils' understanding of diverse communities and cultures. Pupils' understanding of Christianity as a worldwide faith is nurtured through exploring Harvest, Christmas and Easter around the world. This was also nurtured by 'shining a light on the world', which was one of the prayer stations in church. They know the Christmas and Easter story well. Some have heard of Ascension-tide and Pentecost. Pupils are committed to charity fundraising and choose their own charity for the year. For example, they take action for Syrian refugees and animal welfare as well as responding to other local and national good causes. Consequently, this also supports their global awareness. This is a popular school, given to good works, enjoying positive relationships with local schools as part of the West Oxford Schools Partnership.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship at Cumnor is an integral part of school life and enjoyed by adults and pupils alike. Pupils' personal spiritual development is central to the school's ethos, making a significant impact on learning and development. Pupils acknowledge the need for quiet spaces to reflect, both in and outside school. To this end, some pupils are keen to be involved with plans for an outdoor space of reflection. Such plans are still in their infancy. Pupils write their own prayers to pray in worship. These prayers are then placed on the prayer tree in the hall which reflects the school's values, such as a passion for learning and perseverance. In this way they continue to be prayed. This is because pupils know the importance of prayer. Pupils confirm the most important part of worship for them is 'speaking to God, saying thank you and sorry'. Some pupils say singing The Lord's Prayer is special to them. One pupil commented, 'it reminds me that Jesus has given up his life to help other people and to put other people before ourselves'. Adults and pupils affirm Anglican greetings and the lighting of candles as an integral part of daily worship. There are close links with nearby St Michael's Church. The RE subject leader is also the worship co-ordinator. She, senior leaders and the vicar plan the worship themes. Staff lead worship weekly. The pattern of worship includes church services at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers' service. Parents especially praise the end of year service, which sends pupils off well. Pupils and parents value these times throughout the year, with pupils speaking highly of 'God's house', the 'organ playing' and the 'stained glass windows with the story of Isaac and the thirteen disciples at the table', depicting The Last Supper. Pupils explain the symbolism of bread and wine. Pupils cite Bible stories they have heard at school which help them live their lives, such as Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel and also of Mary and Martha and how they relate to Jesus. Areas for ongoing development, already identified by the school, include ensuring the evaluation of worship is effective and developing the experience of worship by engaging pupils in child-led worship more frequently. Pupils confirm they enjoy taking part in worship, but with regard to evaluation, say 'at the moment this doesn't really happen'. They say they would like to share their viewpoints with governors, teachers and others by writing their thoughts down. Pupils and adults in the school community have an understanding of God as Father and Son in an age appropriate way through the daily worship they encounter and experience. Some pupils can explain the Holy Trinity in their own words, saying, 'There are 3 elements in one being.'

God is the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit is the part of God that is in us. He is our life, heart and thoughts. God is all around us and loving is. The Holy Spirit rings inside us like a bell. The Holy Trinity helps us have motivation, perseverance, pride, respect, passion, creativity, and positivity. God is the creator and The Holy Spirit is inside us roaming our bodies.'

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good

The whole school community is united in its belief that Christian values make meaning of life. In addition, developing 'loving relationships with God, self and others' is an explicit part of the school's Christian vision. As a result, pupils and some parents espouse the Christian values. Some parents say they value their children learning about the Christian way of life. They speak highly of how they have been made to feel very welcome. Consequently, they praise the strong sense of belonging and community they experience here. They especially praise the headteacher and all his staff, valuing the longevity of a stable staff who work hard and are very responsive to pupils' needs. They say they see their children demonstrating Christian values at home and achieving successfully, academically and personally. This is recognised in school. For example, achieving The Always Star Award for 'always being ready to learn'. The wellbeing of pupils and adults alike is a priority for governors who have committed much time to strengthening this important aspect of school life. RE and worship meet statutory requirements. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation has already been identified by the school as an area for development, as well as strengthening relationships with the new vicar and the church community. Links with the diocese are very supportive, with the school benefitting from diocesan training and support for governance. Links with local schools are positive. This includes supporting all staff in their roles and responsibilities in a church school. Staff say they enjoy 'being part of a team and value the companionship in this nurturing and caring environment which fosters individuality'. The RE subject leader sees RE at Cumnor as, 'very present and prominent' because a great deal of reflection and thought has been built in. She has no full time class commitment and has dedicated time each week to lead worship and RE, indicating the importance of these two key areas of school life. She has a good overview of RE through teaching Year 2 and 6 last year. She has benefitted from diocesan support and training. So there is confidence that RE is 'on the right track'. RE has its own action plan. RE learning walks are planned for the future and are part of the ongoing cycle of monitoring as well as priorities identified in the school development plan. She welcomes support from the governors in monitoring and evaluating RE, for example, in carrying out book scrutinies together. Currently, this is not in place. Community links are good, with the church community praying for the school, running the Monday club and hosting a junior choir. The school choir sing annually at the local old people's home. In addition, the school lay wreaths at the war memorial in Remembrance-tide. Helping any families in distress is very much part of the school's mission. There is a desire for church and school to be at the centre of the community again.

SIAMS report September 2017 Cumnor CE VC Primary School, Cumnor, Oxfordshire OX2 9PQ