

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

<b>Valley End Church of England Infant School</b>	
Address	Highams Lane, Valley End, Chobham, GU24 8TB
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent

School's vision
<p>At Valley End we nurture a love of life-long learning, enabling our whole school community to flourish within an ambitious and challenging curriculum; our golden rules are the foundation of our school family.</p> <p>Galatians 5:22 ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian vision is at the heart and drives all the work of this excellent church school. It inspires and guides, resulting in the exceptional flourishing of pupils and adults.</li> <li>• Rich learning experiences provide an aspirational and challenging curriculum that enables pupils to thrive.</li> <li>• The spiritual life of the school is exceptional. A rich culture of deep reflection enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.</li> <li>• Excellent collective worship is deeply valued by pupils and adults. It is a clear expression of the Christian vision. Mutually beneficial partnerships with the parish enrich the worship life of the school.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is excellent. Highly effective subject leadership drives an innovative and evolving curriculum.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate further with the diocese and Good Shepherd Trust, to continue the school's remarkable development journey, sharing excellent practice.</li> <li>• Extend the spontaneous use of prayer spaces to further enhance pupils' spiritual growth. This is to effectively provide for their emerging individual needs.</li> </ul>

## Inspection findings

Inspirational Christian leadership drives this excellent school. The vision to nurture a love of life-long learning, rooted in the Holy Spirit, is lived out exceptionally well. This ensures ongoing flourishing for all.

Leaders and governors are insightful on how biblical teaching roots the Christian vision. They clearly articulate how the vision informs all strategic and school development priorities. Governors accurately state the vision 'is the cornerstone of decision making.' It is at the heart of an infectious and forensic culture of continuous improvement. Aspirations for all are exceptionally high. Leaders and governors ensure stringent monitoring of teaching and learning through a robust system of self-evaluation. This rigorous process also extends to the impact of the Christian vision. The valuable wisdom gained from these evaluations, guide partnership decisions. This is evident in the school's recent membership of The Good Shepherd Trust. Governors and trust leaders are united in their ambition to position Valley End as a beacon of excellence. This and other highly effective partnerships enable innovation, and results in the vision impacting on the wider community.

Leaders' deep understanding of a Christian education, ensures the curriculum delivers the vision. They articulate with enthusiasm how it underpins all decisions. A meticulous, research informed approach ensures innovation and ambition drive the curriculum. Leaders' incisive understanding of the school community drives high aspirations for all. Staff and governors all strive for excellence. Support for vulnerable pupils and those with learning difficulties is a strength of the school. Staff are tenacious and skilled in their pursuit of specialist support. This ensures all barriers are overcome. Learning is transformational. No pupil is left behind.

The school's understanding and approach to spiritual development has a life lasting impact. It is clearly and consistently defined in policy and practice. Pupils are drawn to spend time in two beautiful, well designed outdoor prayer spaces. Activities, resources and adults within these areas have a profound impact on their spiritual growth and mental health. Pupils value the 'tranquillity and space to think'. Their discussions about prayer and contemplation are incredibly powerful and mature. Further spontaneous opportunities create rich spiritual experiences within a transformational culture of deep reflection.

Pupils' engagement in social action projects, charitable partnerships and being agents of change are strikingly powerful. They challenge injustice in society and make their voices heard. For example, pupils support a local foodbank and a foundation for children with special educational needs. Innovative and exemplary courageous action gained local MP support to address a significant traffic management issue. Pupils champion local climate change initiatives. They develop a commendable understanding of local, national and global communities. This is seen through their sponsorship of five students at a school in Tanzania. Valley End pupils make a positive difference. They act selflessly to benefit and serve others, enabling them to also flourish.

A powerful sense of trust and nurture characterises life at Valley End. Relationships between all members of the community are exceptionally strong and supportive. Therefore, pupils' behaviour is excellent. They love coming to school. Bible stories connected to the school's Christian values and golden rules are chosen wisely. These are used effectively to model forgiveness, respect, and reconciliation. This approach, along with carefully crafted curriculum opportunities, supports a deep understanding of difference and diversity. Parents accurately share that inclusivity is a golden thread through the school. United by the Christian vision, staff feel truly valued and supported. They rightly celebrate that 'our views matter and count'. The sense of pride and belonging is palpable. Leaders prioritise staff wellbeing

through innovative and creative strategies. This includes the appointment of a mental health and wellbeing coordinator. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the support and guidance they receive. They cite many examples of the life-changing and transformational impact of the school's provision.

Excellent collective worship is at the heart of school life. It has a powerful impact. The school community is drawn to reflect on the essential and inherent meaning and mystery of life. Worship is cherished by all. It is overwhelmingly invitational, inclusive and inspirational. Pupils and adults deeply value the time to come together as a school family for prayer and reflection. Spiritual development is enhanced greatly in worship. Pupils and adults speak with consideration and depth about their own spirituality. The transformational impact is seen throughout the school. It is a source of guidance and strength for all. Staff shared many examples of the positive impact on individuals' lives, including enriching them as adults. Worship is a rich experience for everyone. Those present are immersed in a variety of styles. Music and beautiful singing are a golden thread through the school's worship life. A variety of Anglican traditions are very well-established. This ensures pupils' knowledge of the different elements of Christian worship is very well developed. This includes a remarkably deep understanding of the trinitarian nature of God. Pupils' knowledge of the Bible is commendable. Guided by a growth strategy, strong and lasting relationships with the local church enrich the life of the school. Local clergy and the director of music visit regularly. The leadership of worship is exceptional. Deeply theological Christian-vision-driven practice and provision wholly embeds the vision and empowers the school community. Swift action is taken to follow up on robust monitoring by pupils and governors.

The effectiveness of RE is excellent. It is an exceptionally powerful expression of the Christian vision that is woven throughout a highly ambitious curriculum. It is well planned, sequential and has high priority across the school. Lessons are engaging and thought-provoking. Skilled and effective leaders are passionate about pupils' learning in RE. Robust monitoring, and assessment systems have been developed and embedded. Action research, diocesan and trust training empowers teachers to be innovative and creative. Leaders guide planning and assessment, ensuring lessons are delivered with rigour and confidence. Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning in RE. They find the subject interesting and challenging. Their conversations about faith and beliefs are highly articulate. Excellent provision enables pupils to be tolerant and respectful, in addition to deepening and broadening their views. They are exceptionally proud of their RE work which is of a very high standard.

Information			
School	Valley End Church of England Infant School	Inspection date	25 May 2023
URN	125140	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Guildford	Pupils on roll	154
Headteacher	Kate Harper-Cole		
Chair of Governors	Luis Felipe Manzatucci and Thomas Pembrey		
Inspector	Christian McGuinness	No.	2113