

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Preston Candover Church of England Primary School

Vision

Recognising the unique light that shines in every individual, we strive to 'encourage one another and build each other up' (1 Thessalonians 5:11) to ensure that all can thrive.

Through our core Christian values of Love, Hope and Justice, we inspire learning for life, empowering everyone to flourish and make a positive difference in the world.

Preston Candover Church of England 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.

Notable Strengths

- The recently reinvigorated Christian vision is lived out authentically across school life. Deeply embedded values shape strategic and daily decision making, ensuring that the vision is experienced as a transformative reality by adults and pupils.
- Collective worship is engaging and thought provoking. Using varied aspects and approaches, pupils and adults benefit from time to be collaborative and reflective, resulting in their spiritual growth.
- Spiritual development and a shared understanding of spirituality are threaded throughout the curriculum and wider life of the school. This empowers pupils to reflect deeply and flourish through an increased sense of meaning.
- The school fosters a profound culture of love and hope. Individuals are valued, nurtured and believed in. Consequently, relationships are exceptionally strong.
- Religious education (RE) is well led, highly regarded and prioritised. The curriculum is engaging and has a distinct structure to build pupils' learning. It enables them to develop their knowledge of a range of world faiths and encourages respect for all.

Development Points

- Strengthen processes by which governors monitor and evaluate the RE curriculum. This is to strengthen the impact of their evaluation on the ongoing development of the curriculum.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The recently reviewed Christian vision and associated values have a clear and transformative impact across the school community. Guided by leaders' understanding of the context and needs of the school, they actively shape attitudes, behaviours and decision making. The vision is evident as a lived reality across school life, resulting in pupils and adults flourishing together. Pupils, staff and parents speak with pride about a community that recognises each person's unique light and encourages all to shine. Governors are devoted to the school and know it well, championing its inclusive nature. Leaders maintain a pastoral focus on staff wellbeing and workload. They listen, guide and invest in staff wellbeing and development. Through this, staff flourish and meaningfully add to the school's Christian character. Shaped by the Christian vision, leaders create an inclusive culture with a focus on pastoral care which enables pupils and adults to thrive.

Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision shapes the school's curriculum provision and enables pupils to thrive as engaged, confident learners. The wider curriculum and enrichment experiences help them to broaden their horizons. Those who are vulnerable, and those with additional needs, gain a rich learning experience through the taught curriculum. This is enhanced through carefully chosen extracurricular activities together with a range of trips and visits. As a result of this breadth of provision, pupils are encouraged to develop their unique gifts and talents. A shared understanding of spirituality is rooted in the 'windows, mirrors and doors' approach. This enables pupils to engage thoughtfully with themselves, others and the wider world, deepening their capacity for reflection and personal growth. Opportunities to reflect and deal with big questions help them think deeply. Bible stories enrich learning and strengthen spiritual reflection across the curriculum. Therefore, spiritual development and its shared language are woven through teaching and wider school life. This enables pupils to express delight, curiosity and challenge within learning. Training has strengthened staff confidence, with clear curriculum overviews supporting consistent practice. As a result, a broad range of opportunities for spiritual development are planned within subjects. These are enriched by experiences which arise naturally. Through this the curriculum supports the spiritual flourishing of pupils.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship positively shapes the thinking, attitudes and experiences of pupils and adults. It consistently deepens their spiritual understanding and shapes daily attitudes. Varied approaches give pupils and adults time to collaborate and reflect. These experiences create positive moments of spiritual growth. Reflection spaces and Bible-based displays complement worship across the school. Pupils shape worship through their collective worship leadership roles. Their active involvement inspires both their peers and adults to engage more deeply in worship. As a result, it is increasingly relevant to the experiences, needs and questions of the school community. It is also welcoming, joyful and purposeful. Leaders evaluation of the effectiveness of acts of worship ensure that it continues to grow in depth and impact. The recently appointed vicar enriches worship and is strengthening links with the local church. School and church leaders share an ambition for these partnerships to deepen further.

Vision and School Culture

Recognising the unique light in every individual, the school vision fosters a strong culture of love and hope. Through this, pupils and adults are valued, nurtured and believed in. Consequently, relationships are exceptionally strong. Deeply influenced by the vision, this caring community actively supports one another. As a result, a loving and welcoming atmosphere is pervasive, enabling pupils to flourish with confidence and purpose. Parents deeply value the compassionate support offered during difficult times. New pupils are welcomed with care and encouragement, creating a sense of belonging. Pupils considered vulnerable are championed by a strong inclusion lead. Leaders ensure that St Paul's words to 'build up' create a culture where people feel seen



and encouraged. As a result, pupils and staff are known and nurtured as unique individuals who can thrive. Where difficulties arise within relationships, pupils are guided by Christian values to help bring healing and understanding. Mental health training for staff and parents has created a shared understanding and responsibility. This collaborative approach fosters a culture of care, ensuring that pupils feel supported, valued and ready to flourish.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Guided by Jesus's teachings, the school is committed to giving pupils meaningful responsibilities which they carry out with enthusiasm and maturity. Every pupil has a leadership role. These roles develop confidence, communication and thinking skills. They empower them to use their sense of personal responsibility to be a positive influence in the school and beyond. Rooted in the Christian vision, the school promotes a deep understanding of justice and responsibility. The curriculum encourages ethical discussions on global and societal issues, inspiring pupils to act with respect and equity. Through this, they engage in initiatives such as reverse Advent calendars, charity fundraising, litter picking and writing to companies and the local MP. This enhances their understanding about the practical ways that they can use their sense of responsibility to help others. Their work on Fairtrade and trade justice impacts positively on local shops and parental purchasing choices. As a result, pupils feel equipped to challenge injustice. They know that their views are valued by adults and that they can make a difference to others through their actions.

Religious Education

RE is well led, highly regarded and prioritised. It has a strong profile across school and is enjoyed by the pupils. The curriculum is engaging and structured to build their learning progressively. It enables them to understand a range of world faiths and encourages deep respect for all. Leaders draw on diocesan support to remain current with best practice which strengthens curriculum design and content. Ambitious leaders, including governors, recognise the need to continue using this support to sustain ongoing development of the subject. Although governors are actively engaged with initiatives in RE, the impact of their monitoring and evaluation of it is less developed. This limits its impact. Planned projects within the curriculum help pupils to understand Christianity as a global faith which can be expressed in diverse ways. As a result, the curriculum offers rich opportunities for theological reflection and meaningful comparison across traditions.

Information

Address	Preston Candover, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG25 2EE		
Date	1 July 2026	URN	116308
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	98
Diocese	Winchester		
Headteacher	Simrit Otway		
Chair of Governors	Ope Eluwole		
Inspector	Rebecca Bone		