

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bridstow Church of England Primary School

Vision

Work together, Grow together, Flourish together

‘You are like a tree, planted by streams of water that never run dry. Your fruit ripens in its time; your leaves never fade or curl. In all you do, you prosper.’ Psalm 1:3

Bridstow 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.

Notable Strengths

- The Christian vision is lived out by members of the school community, nourishing their work. It inspires an inclusive culture that nurtures those in its community as known, loved and respected individuals. Therefore, adults and pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are enabled to work, grow and flourish together in harmony.
- Meaningful relationships built on trust are a purposeful expression of the vision and deeply influence the flourishing of pupils and adults. Exemplary behaviour reflects the consistent modelling of expectations by the whole community. Collective responsibility is taken to ensure wellbeing is at the forefront of hearts and minds.
- Inclusive collective worship gently engages members of the school community on a spiritual journey. It makes a difference to the school day and the lives of pupils and adults, binding the community together.
- The vision-led curriculum ignites a passion for learning inspired by God’s creation in nature. The school’s rich outdoor provision cultivates creativity, calm and resilience, enabling pupils to appreciate the world around them. Collaborative partnerships across the Oak Meadow Federation enhance the curriculum offer.
- Pupils are at the heart of the curriculum for religious education (RE). It fosters respect and appreciation of religious and non-religious worldviews. Through it, pupils are encouraged to consider carefully, think deeply and celebrate diversity. Partnership with local churches enriches provision.

Development Points

- Embed the school’s shared understanding and language around spirituality. This is to assist adults and pupils in recognising and expressing how they flourish spiritually.
- Ensure there is a consistent approach to the assessment of RE. This is so that pupils’ developing understanding can be accurately reflected in written work.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Bridstow is a deeply nurturing community where pupils and adults are supported to work, grow and flourish together. Bold decisions are taken so that their context is central to policy and practice. Leaders are inspired by the school's rural setting near the River Wye and Oak Meadow. They work purposefully to embed a Christian vision of nourishment, ensuring it becomes a life-enhancing reality. Pupils gain a rich, sensory understanding of the imagery behind the Christian vision. They describe how they 'grow like an acorn. You start small but if you work hard, you grow strong like a mighty oak tree'. It inspires everyone to work in harmony with oneself, each other and the world around them. Partnerships with the church, diocese and across the Oak Meadow Federation, unlock possibilities for further enrichment and embed a culture of collaboration. A collective responsibility drives high expectations for all.

Vision and Curriculum

Leaders have embraced the unique qualities of the school's setting to form a vision driven curriculum and learning environment. Outdoor learning and play are especially inspirational and therapeutic for pupils. Classrooms bring nature within, to continue that sense of tranquillity so that busy minds can engage in deep, inquisitive thought. Pupils are enthused by the range of extracurricular activities available to them. These opportunities exist because of innovative shared initiatives across the federation. In this small school, pupils are well known. Any changes in progress or behaviour are quickly noticed and acted upon. As a result, pupils thrive holistically as their needs are met and valued. Staff go 'above and beyond' to equip them with lifelong skills alongside knowledge and understanding. The support provided breaks down barriers so that pupils considered vulnerable, and those with SEND, flourish alongside their peers. This has ensured that pupils who struggled in other settings, thrive at Bridstow. Time is dedicated in the curriculum for pupils to appreciate beauty, wonder, have fun and reflect. As a result, they grow spiritually. However, they do not find it easy to express the impact of these experiences. This is because the school has not embedded a shared understanding and language around spirituality.

Vision and School Culture

Trusting relationships are at the heart of the school. Confidence is built through the steadfast belief that working together leads to growth and flourishing. The school is a place where people are nourished, just as the river nourishes trees to grow and ripen. Honest and supportive communication ensures that pupils and adults are included, and parents feel listened to. Staff feel uniquely valued, understood and trusted by school leaders. As a result, stakeholders express a powerful sense of belonging and pride in the work that they do at Bridstow. Their wellbeing is at the forefront of leaders' minds. Loving relationships are modelled by staff working in partnership with one another. Pupils cherish each other. The core values of happiness and friendship radiate throughout the school. Pupils resolve differences with respect and forgiveness. This contributes to the sense of calm unity that prevails. The close-knit community of staff, families and church thrive as love and compassion are demonstrated.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship invites pupils and adults on a spiritual journey, highlighting connections between biblical teachings and life experience. A rich diet of worship offers adults and pupils an opportunity to connect in different ways. Prayerful and contemplative acapella Advent services offer spaces for quiet reflection and a sense of awe and wonder. In contrast, a united singing and signing of visionary messages evokes feelings of deep joy. The local ministry team regularly leads worship that deepens pupils' understanding of biblical stories. Relationships with the parish church are enriched by worshipping and celebrating festivals together in the church building. This engenders a sense of belonging to something bigger. The inclusive nature of worship enables pupils and adults to be involved in discussion around thought-provoking questions. This generates careful and respectful consideration of how actions and behaviours impact on individuals within the school and beyond. Worship inspires pupils, who would otherwise struggle to communicate, to delight in asking others how they can 'fill their bucket with happiness each day.' Through this inspiring worship life, pupils and adults are empowered



to express emotion and connect with the world around them. They therefore flourish spiritually and live out the school's Christian vision.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils are encouraged to recognise their intrinsic worth and to respect the perspectives of others. This invites discussion around what is equitable and just. Older pupils take pride in supporting younger peers and assuming responsibility. Such positive relationships extend into service. Inspired by their curriculum and collective worship, pupils further explore injustice and their role in addressing it. Pupils chose to respond to a diocesan worship session where they explored what it meant to feel grounded. This led to fundraising for a charity that supports youth homelessness. Pupils express how studying ground-breaking historical figures developed their understanding of racism and religious prejudice. As a result, one pupil felt compelled to write to an international foundation and has since become an ambassador. Across all age groups, there is joy in making a positive impact upon their local environment. This has led to a wider discussion, inspired by the Christian vision, around improving the sustainability of the planet. Staff, pupils and parents have worked together to plant trees and landscape reflection areas outdoors. Pupils see how taking action locally inspires the community to join in that action. They begin to see a world flourishing beyond their time at school.

Religious Education

Enthusiastic school leaders are committed to ensuring that RE is a subject of high importance. The newly introduced RE curriculum has been made accessible to pupils. This is because a range of methods for delivering it are used in the classroom. Provision is enhanced by regular visits from local church leaders, from whom pupils learn and remember a wide range of Bible stories. They also understand that scripture from long ago can have relevance today. One pupil described how learning about the creation story helped them realise that 'perhaps God has a plan for their life, just as He did for the world.' Pupils are, therefore, analysing how religious views inform their own. The school ensures that a diverse range of religious and non-religious perspectives are studied, alongside Christianity. Visitors from a variety of worldviews are invited into the school and pupils have visited a local synagogue. This brings the subject to life through firsthand experience. RE is helping pupils to make sense of the diverse world in which they live. They explain that without these opportunities their respect for, and understanding of, different traditions and ways of life would be limited.

Pupils enjoy RE and are motivated to learn because lessons encourage them to be curious. A safe environment has been created where pupils share their opinions and ask relevant questions. Pupils are confidently inquisitive, as they seek to understand where values align, whilst celebrating each person's uniqueness. They articulate what they have learnt very clearly and with accuracy. However, work in books does not always reflect the depth of understanding in some age groups. A new assessment system monitors progression in more depth. The analysis of this is informing future planning. However, as these systems are still in the early stages of implementation, the impact is not consistently evident.

Information

Address	Bridstow, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6PZ		
Date	24 November 2025	URN	116869
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	85
Diocese	Hereford		
Federation	The Oak Meadow Federation		
Headteacher	Dan Brearey		
Chair of Governors	Paul Mason		
Inspector	Nadia Underwood		