

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

Charlton Mackrell Church of England (VC) Primary School	
Address	Bonfire Lane, Charlton Mackrell, Somerton, Somerset TA11 7BN
School vision	
The one who gets wisdom loves life. Proverbs 19:8	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school has a strong community feel, borne out of a solid Christian foundation as a Church of England school. As a result, pupils get on well together and help and support each other.</li> <li>• The Religious Education (RE) curriculum has a high profile in the school and meets the requirements of the Church of England. The RE curriculum is well sequenced and well balanced and includes the study of a wide variety of faiths. It ensures that the pupils are prepared for life in modern Britain.</li> <li>• Vulnerable pupils are given exceptional care in this school enabling them to flourish and shine. Staff live out the school's mission by constantly seeking the development of pupils. Developing good mental health is a priority and parents speak highly of the support they receive.</li> <li>• The wellbeing and workload of staff is carefully considered. There is a strong team ethic with people looking out for one another. This makes the school a great place to learn and teach.</li> <li>• The school has developed highly effective partnerships which have enhanced the life of the school. Partnerships with the local church and community are strong, which helps towards pupils' spiritual development and sense of belonging.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combine the school mission and vision statement so as to ensure they support curriculum decisions more closely.</li> <li>• Deepen what is understood by spirituality and facilitate opportunities for this through the planned curriculum. This is to extend the staff and pupil understanding of spirituality as something different to emotional literacy.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>Charlton Mackrell is a small rural school with a big heart to see pupils thrive and flourish. The school has a firm foundation as a Church school which is underpinned by its vision and clear mission statement. The school's termly values and key Bible stories express the vision in a clear way so that pupils can understand how this determines their behaviour. Pupils speak confidently of how the school teaches them to make wise choices in life including ensuring they 'stay safe, are kind and are ready to learn'. Leaders and staff know the pupils well and nurture their individual skills and talents. Outcomes are monitored by the leaders on a very individual basis ensuring pupils flourish. Family members speak highly of the care and support from the staff, not only in the everyday challenges of life but also during periods of change.</p>	

The curriculum has been developed over a number of years to reflect local interests and issues. The mission statement provides the opportunity to 'reflect, think before acting, make the most of the present and shape the future'. However, the mission statement is the driver for curriculum decisions. It is underpinned by the school Christian vision. Extra-curricular activities provided for all pupils through generous community funding, enable them to experience everything from sports to gardening. Leaders plan inspiring speakers and visits which enrich the curriculum for the pupils. The spiritual development of pupils is nurtured through daily reflection and discussion about big questions. The school captures these reflections in class books which show the journey of developing spiritual awareness that the school is on. However, the school misses opportunities to develop spirituality through the planned curriculum because the understanding of the meaning of this is still at a basic level.

The planned timetable of collective worship involves regular visits to the local church led by members of the open the book team. Their commitment to the school and passion to share their beliefs, provide excellent role models of lived out faith. Parents are welcomed and enjoy attending the collective worship in church. The staff and open the book team respond sensitively to awe and wonder moments experienced by pupils, adapting their plans to encompass their responses. Pupils develop their spirituality by taking part in leading collective worship as they discuss the relevance of Bible stories on their lives. Collective worship is inclusive, providing different opportunities through the week to worship, pray, reflect and listen. Monitoring of responses shows that pupils do not have a deep understanding of spiritual reflection as opposed to an emotional response.

Pupils are treated very well at Charlton Mackrell right from when they start in pre-school. The school's strong Church school foundation has created an established culture in which pupils and adults thrive. Pupils are respectful, polite and friendly to one another. The buddy system at the school ensures that pupils settle quickly and make friends. They feel safe at school and soon feel part of the community. Wellbeing is a priority and well-trained staff effectively provide a safe space to share concerns. Staff themselves have a 'guardian angel' who undertakes anonymous acts of kindness and care, helping to create the close-knit team. Driven by the Christian foundation, leaders are swift to notice need, responding sensitively and with compassion. Vulnerable pupils and their families are given excellent care and learning experiences are modified and adapted. Partnership with the military support team enables access to specific help for pupils when key family members are on deployment. Staff go the extra mile and the generosity of local donations means that any pupils can learn a musical instrument or take part in an after-school club.

There is an established culture of taking responsibility within the school community and also beyond to the local area. Pupils have a range of roles across the school curriculum from sports leaders, school councillors to worship rangers. This enables pupils to develop resilience and self-belief alongside care and compassion for others. The school is a cherished part of the local community and helps with village events. Pupils are courageous in challenging issues affecting the environment and injustice. They research and carefully choose the charities they fundraise for, ensuring that the lives of local people will be improved. They are empowered to act as agents of change for issues in the wider world from those affecting the planet to those affecting vulnerable people.

RE has a high profile in the school and there is a clear plan for the teaching of Christianity and a wide variety of faiths. The curriculum is well sequenced. RE meets the requirements for a Church of England school. Pupils talk confidently about how they enjoy the creative and fun way that RE is taught. Pupils value their lessons, eagerly sharing their knowledge and openly articulating their beliefs. When asked to describe RE lessons they use words such as, 'peaceful, fun, interesting and imaginative.' Leaders plan for diocesan training for all staff to ensure their continued professional development.



The inspection findings indicate that Charlton Mackrell Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information

School	Charlton Mackrell C of E (VC) Primary School	Inspection date	08.07.2024
URN	123746	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese	Bath and Wells	Pupils on roll	90
MAT/Federation	LA Maintained		
Headteacher	Rebecca Cawley		
Chair of Governors/	Rosie Dawson		
Inspector	Rachel Chamberlain	No.	C23/24