

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Great Bedwyn Church of England VC Primary School

Vision

'Let your roots grow down into him and let your lives be built on him' Colossians 2v7

'..Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings of an eagle.' Isaiah 40 v31

This is expressed through a simplified vision, designed to be accessible to all our learners:

'Together may we give our children -roots to grow and wings to fly'

Great Bedwyn Church of England VC 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 curriculum is carefully crafted to reflect the school's vision, enabling pupils to establish deep 'roots to grow and wings to fly.' Opportunities for pupils to discover and develop their talents through a comprehensive enrichment program contribute significantly to their personal growth.
- Invitational collective worship is a vital part of the school day. It is well-planned and provides pupils and adults with a time of stillness and joyful celebration. Its lasting impact is evident in the interactions between people and how it contributes to their spiritual development.
- Pupils have a strong understanding of justice. Where they see injustice in the world, they feel empowered to make a small, yet significant intervention. Great Bedwyn supplies a platform for pupils to achieve this. Consequently, pupils see themselves as responsible members of a wider world.
- Inspired by the vision of 'roots to grow and wings to fly', leaders have actively created a nurturing learning culture. Staff ensure vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are cared for. As a result, pupils achieve and thrive.
- RE has the highest profile within the school. The curriculum is well matched to the needs of the pupils. They feel empowered to debate and discuss faith, demonstrating a real love for the subject.

Development Points

- Enhance the school's RE curriculum. This is to deepen and broaden pupils' knowledge and understanding of non-religious world views.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Great Bedwyn is a welcoming school in which people are known and celebrated for their unique gifts. This is underpinned by the school's Christian vision which is rooted in scripture and closely aligned to that of the trust. Staff describe this as a 'gentle wind that guides the boat'. Leaders, including governors and the trust, work tirelessly to ensure that this is lived out and drives decision-making. The strong sense of aspiration allied to establishing deep roots enables pupils and adults to grow and develop as individuals. The trust and governors know the school well, maintaining its distinctive identity within the family of the multi-academy trust (MAT). Leaders regularly monitor and evaluate the school's work in partnership with staff. This results in a vision that is known and understood. Guidance is sought from the diocese to further develop the school's well-defined Christian character. This has led to mutually beneficial collaborative practice with other Church schools. Working within the MAT provides adults with leadership opportunities. These are empowering adults to be ambitious for themselves and their pupils. Parents rightly appreciate the 'compassionate care' that their children receive. Close partnerships with the local church and community enrich the pupils' experiences. This is exemplified by pupils growing and selling produce through a local group and serving lunches to the elderly.

Vision and Curriculum

Shaped by the school's vision, leaders have designed an ambitious curriculum. Learning is deepened through an emphasis on enquiry and reflection. Pupils are encouraged to ask 'big' questions. A sense of awe and wonder is woven through the fabric of their experiences. They can articulate these touchstone moments clearly, particularly in relation to their interactions with God's natural world. Recently the school started work on further developing their approach to spirituality. Whilst this new initiative is at an early stage, opportunities for spirituality across the curriculum are carefully mapped out. Pupils can confidently speak about their sense of self. The myriad of opportunities for personal development through the school's excellent extra-curricular program are impactful, extending pupils' horizons. Examples include musical performances, cultural experiences and high-quality school visits. Leaders ensure that the most vulnerable pupils, including those with SEND, sit at the centre of the school's mission. As an outworking of the vision, this includes identifying families with hidden vulnerabilities and giving them the help they need. This is achieved through a highly skilled group of adults who work hard with the support and care that they give.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a cherished part of the school day. Pupils and adults come together to take time to pause, reflect and refresh themselves. They are respectful of the different ways in which people may approach daily worship. Bible stories, uplifting singing and moments of stillness are intrinsic and valued. Each worship is used to reflect on the school's core values and how they relate to its vision. Strong links with the clergy provide co-designed planning and guidance for staff enabling staff to feel confident in leading worship. Pupils appreciate the way in which worship helps them to think about others. A good example of this is how the theme of forgiveness inspires pupils to manage conflict during break times. Deeper philosophical approaches to forgiveness such as 'it is it always easy to forgive?' are planned to facilitate this. This is augmented by the school's grounds, which provide a variety of reflective spaces for people to explore. Within these spaces, pupils are given time to contemplate and respond to worship, looking beyond themselves. They think deeply about current issues globally and how others may be feeling. In this way, the influence of worship on the spiritual flourishing of individuals reaches beyond the school gate.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum is well-planned and sequenced. Pupils can talk about how they revisit different religions and how this broadens their knowledge. They enjoy RE which provides challenge and opportunities to debate. Pupils show empathy in the responses that they make. They can confidently make connections between different



faiths. A child commented 'in RE we are thinkers'. RE is well led. The provision is evaluated carefully to meet the needs of the school community. Leaders ensure that staff are given the professional support and resources that they need. RE is well-balanced, relevant and meets the demands of a Church school. The curriculum is designed so that pupils can develop a deep understanding about religions and other worldviews, including Christianity. Non-religious worldviews are taught through humanism. Currently this limits the opportunities that pupils have to explore and compare non-religious world views.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils are excited to 'earn their wings'. This endeavour forms the cornerstone of the school's approach to responsibility and justice. Pupils are encouraged to look beyond themselves and respond to unfairness wherever they see it. Whether increasing the profile of issues of injustice, pupils know that they have a community willing to support them. This can manifest itself locally or more globally. For example, sending letters to the Prime Minister about local pollution or establishing an after-school club regarding the conservation of elephants. Pupils and adults are deeply moved by pupil-led worship focusing on these issues. They feel empowered to be a force for good. This is underpinned by the school's vision and the trust's focus of 'doing what is right and challenging what is wrong.' Pupils are given carefully thought-out leadership roles which aid personal growth providing rich role models. This natural sense of stewardship extends to looking after God's planet and caring for others.

Vision and School Culture

There is a strong culture of love that sits at the heart of the school's work. As a result of the nurture and care given by leaders, people thrive. Good mental health is championed by governors and the trust. Pupils and staff feel proud to be part of the school. Regular check-ins and tailored approaches to personal development are a hallmark of the school's approach to inclusivity. Kindness is a core theme that is woven through daily interactions. This is evident in the way that people care for one another. An example of this is how the older pupils support the youngest, acting as positive role models. The vision of 'roots to grow and wings to fly' is all-encompassing. It demonstrates an ambition to nurture and provide aspiration for all.

Information

Address	Farm Lane, Great Bedwyn, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3TR		
Date	9 June 2026	URN	145714
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	205
Diocese	Salisbury		
MAT	Excalibur Academies Trust		
MAT Chair	Nick Lewis		
Headteacher	Michelle Perrett		
Chair of Governors	Richard Barker		
Inspector	Graham Shore		