

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Veryan Church of England Primary School	
Address	Veryan, Truro, Cornwall, TR2 5QA

School vision

Supporting one another in learning and life.

As a school we communicate our Christian character through the parable of The Good Samaritan. In knowing and understanding this story well we can talk about how we can do God’s work by helping one another as well as helping others in our community and the wider world. Our School hymn; "When I needed a neighbour" goes one step further in reminding us of our Christian distinctiveness and of our purpose.

School strengths

- The school’s vision is the bedrock of the school, successfully meeting the needs of its community. It drives every aspect of school life, as it is so well known by leaders, governors, children and parents.
- The good relationships between everyone are the linch pin of this small rural school. Children are given every chance to succeed. It is a happy and open-hearted school where staff and the Rainbow Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) go the extra mile to improve learning and to ensure children flourish.
- The strong welcome given to every person at Veryan is particularly evident in the arrangements and care for vulnerable children. Effective special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision ensures additional needs are met. The strong pastoral approach incorporates families and beyond.
- The impact of collective worship over time enables children to reflect and respond to challenges and situations in their own daily lives.
- The school has established strong partnerships with parents, the church, diocese, local community, and, especially the MAT. All partnerships are used very effectively to enhance the children’s experiences. The MAT provides substantial support, effectively enriching the provision through sharing best practice.

Areas for development

- Refine the religious education (RE) curriculum even further and improve assessment strategies in RE. This is in order that children may gain a deeper knowledge of religions other than Christianity.
- Develop a deeper understanding of spirituality amongst the staff. This is to ensure there are well planned opportunities across the curriculum, enabling all to foster their spiritual development.
- Broaden opportunities for all children to be able to actively challenge injustice in order to inspire them to make a difference to the world.

Inspection findings

Veryan Primary School is a place where children and adults truly live out the school's vision in the day to day lives of the school community. The dedication of leaders ensures that the vision drives all of their work, accurately meeting the school's needs. The biblical underpinning of the vision helps children understand its true meaning. They are able to talk about how this vision shapes their thoughts and actions in school, home and their local community. The work at Veryan is supported well by its governing body and most significantly by the Rainbow Multi-Academy Trust. The work of the governors, aided by the MAT, is well planned. This means there is a clear and evaluative knowledge of how the vision is driving the work of the school. The collaborative work between staff, MAT and governors offers challenge, and supports the future direction of the school.

The formal curriculum has been redesigned in line with the vision and work on this is ongoing. Children particularly enjoy supporting one another in the extensive school grounds and opportunities like 'wild tribe' and beach school outdoor activities. The vision, central to curriculum design, ensures pupils develop an understanding and aspiration to know the world beyond Veryan. Children are excited to be learning about other people and places. Leaders have shared a language to help children understand spirituality but this is not understood deeply enough by adults. It is not yet sufficiently well planned to enable full spiritual flourishing. The school special needs co-ordinator (SENDCo) has delivered training to ensure staff understand the importance of precise targets for children. This, alongside specific interventions, has ensured children with additional needs are very well supported. The leaders at Veryan provide fully for families, including recognising the need for wraparound care. This is provided daily and utilised well, ensuring children get a good start to the day with breakfast and an extra story time.

Daily collective worship allows the school time to reflect on the school's Christian vision and its associated values. Consequently, children and adults know the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan very well, recognising its relevance to their lives. Collective worship is well planned, following the Church year, weaving in the school vision and values in a purposeful and meaningful way. This helps children take part in in a respectful and reflective manner. They talk about it being a spiritual and calm time for them. The school have implemented words and actions to allow further exploration of spirituality. They have done this by adopting the words ourselves, others, the world and beyond. This has not been in place long enough to be embedded or articulated well. Prayer is an important part of life at Veryan. This is promoted by a range of prayer spaces and opportunities across the school and its grounds. This helps children understand the range of reasons for, and ways to, pray. Children talk confidently about the value of prayer. The children benefit from a range of worship spaces and leaders. This helps everyone to understand worship can be both formal and informal. Families are invited to, and attend, weekly collective worship services in the church. This supports their understanding of the impact and importance of collective worship in addition to what children tell them.

Following their vision to help the community, staff and governors ensure children understand how to take responsibility for the environment. Driven by the school's Christian vision, staff ensure children feel valued as individuals, which builds strong relationships at all levels. Effective leadership at school and MAT level mean staff also feel valued and cared for. The Christian vision guides leaders in the MAT in promoting the mental health and wellbeing of everyone. Parents recognise that staff are eager to go 'above and beyond' to ensure every child is able to thrive. This means that children come to school eagerly, feeling safe and happy. The school, in line with their vision, have prioritised spending on a parent support worker who is directed to work with families on specific areas where appropriate. She provides vital support for children and parents. The older children gain confidence in supporting others in learning and life throughout the school day. This is through activities like setting up for, or serving, breakfast and lunch. The school are very aware of the importance of getting children secondary ready, academically and emotionally. This is particularly important as they come from a very small and rural school. As a result, children benefit from lots of visits to the local secondary school. They are highly motivated by the older pupil mentors they see at such visits and aspire to do this one day.

Children, staff and parents, in fact all who visit Veryan, recognise the very warm welcome. This makes interactions across the school positive for all. Staff take opportunities to continue their own learning. There is a well-planned schedule of support and training from the MAT to ensure they flourish. When the children go to church they can confidently lead and include others in the collective worship. The children recognise that this responsibility stretches beyond school to their friends and family. The school provides opportunities for understanding of wider world issues through collective worship resources. However, children do not have the broad skills, knowledge and experience to actively challenge injustice, especially beyond their immediate locality.

The school use a range of resources to teach RE. Children are introduced to beliefs and practices across other religions and worldviews. However, as the majority of time is spent exploring Christianity, children's knowledge and understanding of religions other than Christianity is limited. Leaders and teachers access resources and training provided by the Diocese and MAT. As a result of this training, and monitoring, the RE leader has very recently introduced a new curriculum. The curriculum development supports teacher subject knowledge and understanding, contributing to the quality and impact of teaching. Children speak positively about RE lessons. Children are able to recall key facts about earlier lessons and use this to understand the learning in the new lesson. The improving quality of teaching means children are now encouraged to recall and link previous learning to the day's lesson. Pupils' work shows they are working at an expected level. However, assessment strategies are underdeveloped. Children respond well, engaging enthusiastically in discussions of the questions raised in units of work. They respond confidently using a range of subject specific vocabulary.

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

Information			
Inspection date	23 rd April 2024	URN	140469
Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	41
Diocese	Truro		
MAT	Rainbow Multi-Academy MAT		
Headteacher	Caroline Jarrett		
Chair	Pat McGovern		
Inspector	Nikki Prentice	No.	C.23/24