


Keeping On Track

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| School | St Philip Westbrook CE Primary School |
| Adviser | Jane Griffiths |
| Date of Visit | 7th February 2024 |
| School's theologically rooted Christian Vision | <p>'Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly'.</p> <p>We aim to create a loving community, enfolded by Christian values. Here children can develop their God given potential in a secure, nurturing and happy environment that embraces excellence and enables children to live life in all its fullness.</p> |
| How was the vision developed and how does it respond to the CONTEXT of the school? | <p>This large school, positioned at the heart of the Westbrook Centre, serves a diverse community, with pupils from a rich variety of different religions, views, cultures and languages. The school's long and well-established vision, with its overarching theme of "Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly", is deeply rooted in theology and reflects the community's emphasis on togetherness and mutual support. The vision, together with associated values, reflect the school's diversity and are the driving force behind leaders' actions and decisions at every level. Leaders frequently revisit the vision statement to ensure its relevance and impact. As a result of the deeply held vision, all members of this nurturing church school family share a deep sense of belonging and feel valued.</p> |
| How does the school environment and digital presence celebrate its theologically rooted Christian vision? | <p>From the opening page of its informative and vibrant website, the school publicly celebrates its Christian foundation and ethos. The vision is central and a video details school life and places emphasis on the chosen Christian values being at the heart of relationships and expectations. The rest of the website contains a rich store of information including Newsletters, weekly Faith at Home activities, information on the pupils' courageous advocacy work and links to St Philip's Church's services and activities. The website gives parents and other visitors a colourful glimpse into this church school's life.</p> <p>The environment is enriched by high quality faith-inspired displays and symbols around the school and in classrooms. The entrance area in particular, leaves the visitor in no doubt that they are entering a church school. Classroom reflection spaces are used effectively, both as an area for personal worship and as a focal point to continue collective worship throughout the week. The outdoor Spiritual Garden provides further opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually and socially.</p> |
| To what extent have the area/s for improvement from the previous SIAMS inspection been addressed and with what impact? | <p><i>"Devise a more succinct process for senior leaders' effective evaluation of the impact of the school's Christian vision, in order to further develop the school's exceptional provision."</i></p> <p>Leaders accept that the SEF current at the time of the last SIAMS was lengthy and lacked clarity where evaluation of the impact of the vision was concerned. Since then, subsequent SEFs have detailed the impact of the Christian vision on all areas of school life drawn from pupil and staff voice and monitoring procedures.</p> <p><i>"Follow up the remarkable success and empathy achieved by pupils in their vision to be global citizens, by aiming for national recognition through Christian Aid's 'Global Neighbours' silver accreditation award."</i></p> <p>The restrictions imposed by the pandemic over the past few years have resulted in the school not being able to advance as quickly as they would have liked in this area. However, this has gathered momentum and the intention is to apply for the accreditation at silver level once the link with Masizani Primary School has been strengthened further.</p> |
| How is the school's theologically rooted Christian | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The school's Christian vision and associated values inspire the community to provide a loving, nurturing, stimulating and celebratory environment in which all pupils are given the opportunity to flourish and aspire to reach their God-given potential. ▪ The strong focus on the vision, lived out through the school's chosen values, is at the heart of a rich, empowering and character-building Personal Development provision, |

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| <p>vision enabling pupils to flourish?</p> | <p>SMSC and Aim High Curriculum. These help to prepare pupils not just for a flourishing life within the school and the local community, but for life beyond the primary school years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pupils and their families are encouraged to celebrate the diversity of their school and local community by sharing their different cultures and faiths. There is also a strong focus on providing pupils with enriching cultural capital experiences and extra-curricula opportunities to prepare them to embrace life in all its fullness. ▪ Well planned collective worship is an intrinsic element of everyday life. Pupils benefit from a selection of resources such as God’s Big Story, Picture News and the Big Frieze and enjoy ownership and evaluation of worship in class groups every week. Big Questions and reflection opportunities are encouraged. Leaders make every effort to ensure that worship is invitational and inclusive to children of all faiths and none, whilst ensuring that Christianity is at the heart. This is a school that enjoys worshipping together and there is a sense of joy and enthusiasm among the pupils. ▪ The pupil’s Ethos Group maintain the class-based reflection spaces and the Spiritual Garden and play a key role in supporting worship, Eucharist services and festival celebrations. ▪ There is a very close, valued and mutually supportive relationship between the school and St Philip’s Church (attached to the school building). Pupils benefit spiritually from the relationship with the congregation and PCC and, in particular, the school community appreciates the significant contribution of the incumbent, Rev’d Sarah Peppiatt and LML June Dunning. Confirmation classes are held for Year 5 and 6 pupils. ▪ Pupils respond enthusiastically to leadership opportunities in such areas as School Council, Ethos Group, Courageous Advocacy Team Digital Leaders, Sports Ambassadors and Lunch and Play Leaders. Ample opportunities are given for pupil voice and effective leadership, enabling them to contribute to school direction. ▪ Pupils are encouraged to act independently as advocates for change, thus deepening their understanding of injustice and inspiring them to make a difference to the lives of those within the school community and beyond. |
| <p>How is the school’s theologically rooted Christian vision enabling adults to flourish [staff, governors and parents]?</p> | <p>The overarching vision of “Together we aim high and with God’s love we can fly” impacts on the adults as well as the pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff have access to high quality CPD which enables them to advance their skills and equip them for their roles and responsibilities. A new appraisal system is centred around flourishing, which highlights and supports their own flourishing as well as that of pupils. The school’s vision calls upon the community to “encourage one another and build each other up.” In response to this, staff wellbeing has a high priority, which is reflected in the Staff Wellbeing Charter. The school has developed a strong pastoral system that provides support for the whole community and there is a well-developed culture of treating everyone with kindness and respect. The spiritual life of the staff is enriched by ready access to the local church community and its incumbent. ▪ The school benefits from a well-skilled and supportive governing body, who make a valuable contribution to all areas of school life and its Christian distinctiveness. Governance membership is linked closely to St Philip’s Church, with the incumbent, LML and congregation members serving as foundation governors. The school’s Christian vision and values are central to decision making and policy. ▪ Parents are encouraged to be partners within the school family and the school and church work together to sustain and uphold them. Weekly Faith at Home activities provided by the school encourage pupils and their families to share spiritual time together. |

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| Agreed current strengths: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The dedicated, servant leadership of the headteacher ensures that the school's deeply Christian vision and values are at the heart of daily life. He is supported well by the SIAMS Lead and RE Leads, the staff and skilled governors. ▪ The Christian vision inspired motto of 'Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly' guides the inclusive and welcoming nature of this school family and gives both pupils and adults the opportunity to thrive. Pupils speak warmly of the impact both the vision and values have on their development and community life – "They set us on a clear path." ▪ The Personal Development and Aim High curriculums, which impact on all areas of school life, are underpinned by a deep and faithful focus on the chosen Christian values of Perseverance, Trust, Wisdom, Fairness, Respect, Compassion, Fellowship and Hope. ▪ The strong and effective relationship between the school, the local church, its incumbent and LML, makes a substantial contribution to the school's Christian character and to the spiritual growth of all members of the school. This is a school and congregation which enjoy worshipping together. Collective worship is varied; valuable opportunities are provided for whole school, class based (led by pupils) and church worship. ▪ Religious education has a high priority and is well led. The Questful RE syllabus is embedded across school and there is an appropriate balance of Christianity to other world faiths. Pupils of all ability levels achieve well in RE. Assessment procedures are robust and staff are supported well in the delivery of the curriculum. ▪ The key message of "God is Love" within the school's Christian vision encourages pupils to treat all with compassion and empathy and foster a sense of responsibility towards others. Annual courageous advocacy projects, selected by the pupils, have enabled them to make genuine and effective impact at a local, national and world level and have allowed pupils to become agents of change. |
| Agreed areas for development: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To continue to aim for the Global Citizens Award (at silver level) through partnership with Masizani Primary School and the Vagu-Luma Tribe. ▪ To give further opportunities for pupils to engage with local community groups in order that a greater understanding of the community and society beyond the school gates can be developed. |
| Signed Headteacher | <i>P. Stanley</i> |
| Signed Adviser |  |