

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

### Curry Rivel Church of England VC Primary School

#### Vision

‘Healthy trees bearing good fruit’ from Matthew 7:17

Core Christian 5-a-day values: forgiveness, kindness, respect, thankfulness and perseverance.

Curry Rivel 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 Christian vision and values are at the heart of school life. This enables pupils and adults to flourish and become the best versions of themselves that they can be.
- In line with the Christian vision, inclusion is a priority at Curry Rivel School. Leaders and staff go the extra mile to meet pupil needs so that they may flourish.
- The Christian vision enables pupils and adults to live together well. It inspires a strong sense of respect and partnership, within an equitable and caring culture.
- Springing from the vision and values, a strong sense of fairness across the school results in an active culture of justice. This encourages pupils to be proactive and become agents of change.

#### Development Points

- Develop a language of spirituality to be used by adults and pupils. This is so that they can articulate their own and others’ spiritual experiences.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

Curry Rivel School's Christian vision underpins all that the school is and does, enabling pupils and adults to flourish. Governors and leaders know their school well and make strategic and operational decisions based upon the vision. This ensures that developments and initiatives support pupils and staff to thrive. The vision is expressed through the school's Christian 5-a-day core values. These are known and lived daily, supporting personal, moral behaviour. Associated Bible stories encourage good decision making and mutual support. For example, The Parable of the Lost Sheep is particularly attached to the core value of perseverance. This encourages learners to keep trying. Governors are committed to the school and support and challenge leaders in their decision making. Robust monitoring and evaluation ensure that leaders' decisions enable the community to flourish. Staff, parents and pupils are consulted and feel a deep sense of belonging. The school is fully inclusive and celebrates difference. In tune with the vision, members are respectful to each other and are able to disagree well.

### Vision and Curriculum

The school's broad and balanced curriculum and extra-curricular offer, very much reflect the vision. Its guiding principles ensure that pupils enjoy their learning and have effective personalised provision where necessary or desirable. Inspired by the Christian vision, the curriculum is designed to provide a holistic education, and spirituality is an intrinsic part of this. Opportunities to experience wow moments of spirituality, are written into all subjects and spontaneous moments are acknowledged. However, pupils are not skilled at identifying and talking about these experiences. This limits their ability to acknowledge landmarks on their personal spiritual journeys. By encouraging pupils to live according to the five core values, the school successfully equips them with skills for life.

### Worship and Spirituality

Daily collective worship is important and a central to school life. It is well planned around the school's values and is delivered in a variety of ways by leaders and visitors. Pupils enjoy worship as a time when members of the school come together. They participate enthusiastically, particularly enjoy singing, discussing the worship theme, and readily take part in reading prayers and dramatisations. Long-standing links with the local parish church see the Open the Book team visit regularly to lead re-enactments of Bible stories. This deepens pupil understanding of the stories' messages and encourages them to be used in everyday life. Adults cherish worship as a time of stillness and reflection in the middle of their busy days. It is inclusive and pupils and adults with a range of beliefs and none, feel comfortable attending. The worship themes are inspirational. Times for reflection and prayer offer opportunities to grow in awareness of personal thoughts and feelings. This contributes to pupils and adults' spiritual development.

### Vision and School Culture

The school has a strong culture of care and respect. This is attributable to the vision and values being a living reality. Pupils and adults live together well in this inclusive and equitable culture. They care about each other and thrive in this mutually supportive environment. For example, pupil wellbeing ambassadors run a Place-2-Be room. Here, their peers take advantage of a quiet space for reflection, when they need it. Positions of responsibility on the school council enable pupils to make a positive difference and show kindness. Staff flourish because in response to the vision, they are a strong team who encourage and support each other. Believing it to be of high importance, leaders prioritise the good mental health and wellbeing of the school community. Consequently, they put in place a range of initiatives to support this, such as teachers' preparation time being flexibly organised. For pupils, a sensory room and forest school provision are provided to encourage readiness for learning. As a result, individuals are able to flourish. Staff know pupils well and outreach to families is seen as



integral to wellbeing, supporting them to thrive. Achievement awards encourage a sense of pride in belonging to Curry Rivel and there is a universal feeling of being cherished.

#### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

There is an active culture of justice and responsibility amongst pupils. Inspired by the vision, they insist that things should be fair and endeavour to make this happen. For example, they choose causes for which to raise money through cake sales or sponsored events. Working in partnership with the parish, they support the local foodbank. Understanding that some people do not have enough food they want to address this. Partnerships with the diocese, parish, local authority and a neighbouring group of Church schools are important to leaders. These liaisons enhance the work of Curry Rivel as a Church school itself. The local authority support staff appointments, and diocesan Church school leadership training, enrich the provision offered. Pupils feel a responsibility to look after God's creation and endeavour to do this in their school and locality. They litter pick and encourage the saving of electricity by turning off lights. Opportunities to participate in leadership roles, give pupils the chance to demonstrate the vision and Christian values in action. As house leaders or council members, they contribute to decision-making in school, and this has a positive impact.

#### Religious Education

Religious education (RE) has a high profile at Curry Rivel and is regarded as a core subject. School leaders ensure that RE provision fulfils Church of England requirements, and that the curriculum is effective. It is well-planned and resourced, and staff receive regular continuing professional development to support quality teaching of the subject. Particular care is given to planning for, and delivery of, mixed-age teaching. The result of this is that RE is enjoyed, as is learning about Christianity alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Pupils are encouraged to see Christianity as a relevant, global faith. They compare a range of faiths, worldviews and cultures and debate their findings within a safe, classroom environment. The use of big questions such as, 'What is God's job?' also offers opportunities for further discussion and reflection. This empowers pupils to make informed decisions about their own beliefs, whilst remaining respectful of the thoughts and practices of others. Thus, they are prepared to become reflective, considerate and informed young members of society as 'Healthy trees bearing good fruit.'

## Information

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|--------------------|--|---------------|--------|
| Address            | Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset. TA10 0HD |               |        |
| Date               | 13 November 2025   | URN           | 123752 |
| Type of school     | Voluntary controlled                                     | No. of pupils | 140    |
| Diocese            | Bath and Wells   |               |        |
| Headteacher        | Ali Pook   |               |        |
| Chair of Governors | Sally Harvey   |               |        |
| Inspector          | Alison Appleyard   |               |        |