

Keeping On Track

School	Sutton Oak Church of England Primary School
Adviser	Robert Haigh
Date of visit	21st September 2022
School's Christian Vision	<p>The school envisages, both now and strongly for the future, "an inclusive and nurturing environment based on Christian values which supports all aspects of pupils' welfare and enables them to reach their potential and become responsible, trustworthy and caring members of society."</p> <p>'I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength' (Philippians 4:13); 'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing' (1 Thessalonians 5:11) provide the theological inspiration and underpinning for the school's Christian vision, values and ethos. The belief that every member of the school community is known and loved by God is at the heart of all the school does.</p>
To what extent have the area(s) for improvement from the previous SIAMS inspection been addressed and with what impact?	<p>The two areas for improvement (2018) have been successfully addressed.</p> <p>Opportunities for evaluation of collective worship are now embedded. Pupils talk reflectively and maturely about the value of worship and its impact on their own faith and lives. Links between the school and the church have strengthened despite the restrictions of the pandemic and other setbacks. The visionary, discerning and dynamic contribution of the Vicar has been a key factor in this growing and mutually beneficial partnership. Pupils talk about the enjoyment and learning they derive from being part of a wider worshipping community which is also bringing the church and families closer together.</p>
Agreed current strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dedicated and visionary Christian leadership of the headteacher and leadership team, strongly supported by governors and staff, ensures that the Christian character and distinctiveness of the school are paramount. • The school's vibrant learning environment and supportive family atmosphere. These ensure that love, challenge and empathy, based on the core Christian values, are felt by all members of the

	<p>school community. This has a huge positive impact on the wellbeing, learning, behaviour, relationships, work and aspirations of children and adults alike. They flourish in the school's nurturing culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship is invitational and inspirational. It has remained at the heart of the school's life and been a source of hope and strength for children and adults in challenging times. Pupils speak of the importance to them of prayer, praise and Bible teaching. They show deep spiritual insight, for example in their understanding of the attributes of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. • The school's deep understanding of the needs of the locality it serves fuels the passion for enabling all to flourish. The school is a community hub and highly effective pastorally in working with a range of partners to support parents and their children, including the most vulnerable. • A balanced and progressive RE curriculum supports pupils in making good progress. RE themes, together with the core Christian values, are skilfully woven into the curriculum fabric. This fosters pupils' spiritual development as well as their academic progress.
<p>How is the school's Christian vision enabling pupils to flourish?</p>	<p>The pupils understand the biblical references for the vision, and can explain how it encourages them to know that they and the school are in God's care. They demonstrate the core values in their daily lives. Their excellent behaviour and high levels of self-esteem and mutual respect and support are impressive. Pupils' display a strong appetite for learning. The opportunities they have to share in the leadership of the school's activities and to serve the wider community are enabling them to become responsible citizens.</p>
<p>How is the vision enabling the adults to flourish (staff, parents and governors)?</p>	<p>Opportunities are created and training offered to enable governors and staff to develop their expertise and qualifications. Problems are shared. This creates an aspirational and caring professional learning community in which all adults feel they are valued and supported with an important contribution to make. The recently established governors' Ethos Committee has oversight of developments to enhance the school's Christian distinctiveness and the wellbeing of its people.</p>

<p>Thinking about Covid-19. How has the school's Christian vision sustained the school community and how is it helping the school build back afterwards?</p>	<p>Collective worship, the teaching of RE and the partnership with the church have continued. This has enabled the school to sustain its responsibilities for the spiritual welfare of the community. Generous support for families has also been a significant feature of the school's service and nurture including the frequent contact by telephone, email and home visits. This has strengthened home-school relationships.</p>
<p>Agreed areas for development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Ethos Committee with governors to provide robust self-evaluation of the effectiveness of Sutton Oak as a Church school. • Embed projects and curriculum coverage to provide effective support for the development of pupils as advocates for social justice, inspiring them to take action on issues of local, national and international concern. • Continue to ensure that staff training, offered in association with the Vicar and the Diocese, enables colleagues to explore and develop their own spirituality and nurture that of the pupils.
<p><i>Signed Headteacher</i></p>	
<p><i>Signed Adviser</i></p>	<p><i>Robert Haigh</i></p>