

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) DRAFT

All Saints Marsh Church of England Academy	
Address	Osborne Street, Newton Abbot, TQ12 2DJ
School vision	
Building lifelong foundations together. 'The wise man built his house upon a rock... it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock'. (Matthew 7:24-25)	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is at the heart of the school. It is articulated with passion by leaders and drives the life of the whole school community. It resonates with the vision of the academy trust, so that school life is enriched by both. • Leaders are confident in ensuring that pupils have 'firm foundations' in their learning. They constantly monitor and adapt provision to meet the differing needs of the school community in a changing context. • All Saints Marsh excels in pastoral care. It knows its community well, builds strong relationships and sympathetically offers support and challenge. Children are enthusiastic about their school and attendance is particularly strong. • The vision and its accompanying values are lived out within and beyond the school. Pupils seek to be compassionate, respectful, resilient and embrace diversity. Parents value this influence on their children's development. • Partnerships significantly enrich capacity. The relationship with the trust, balancing autonomy and intervention in a Christian context, is exemplary. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the trust as it develops a deeper understanding of spirituality. Apply this at All Saints through policy, practice and staff training. • Sharpen focus and challenge in religious education (RE) through a more rigorous understanding of assessment. • Provide opportunities for children to understand themselves as change-makers, moving beyond the local area to global thinking. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>All Saints Marsh is a school driven by its vision of 'firm foundations'. This is inspired by the biblical image of 'the wise man who builds his house on firm ground'. Everyone talks about the importance of the vision, which is expressed with particular passion by leaders. Six biblically-based values are developed as foundations for children's lives. These are love, compassion, courage, creativity, perseverance and trust. Driven by this vision, All Saints provides a high-quality, bright and safe environment in the built-up town centre. Everyone ensures there is a warm welcome. The friendly and inclusive nature of the school stands out to visitors. Families going through difficulties particularly value the support and acceptance found here. It is rightly called 'a small school with a</p>	

big heart'. Pupils enjoy being at the school and it inspires loyalty from generations of local families. Within this space, people feel secure. Because of this, All Saints Marsh is one of the firm foundations on which a spirit of community is built in the local area.

The school knows its pupils very well and intentionally shapes the curriculum to their perceived learning needs. The focus is on building firm foundations for younger pupils, with careful, supported reinforcement as they get older. Leaders constantly monitor learning. This means they are able quickly to make changes to school organisation to ensure that pupils thrive. The school has a 'culture of noticing'. Because of this, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are well supported and learn well alongside their peers. 'Being wise' is a thread that runs through the curriculum. It is a focus, for example, in learning about history and in relationships, sex and health education. Here, pupils are building firm foundations for making wise choices in later life. Leaders are keen that pupils gain a breadth of experience beyond Newton Abbot town centre. They have been entrepreneurial in building partnerships, practical and financial, to extend opportunities for extra-curricular activities and trips. In this they are supported by the academy trust's '70 before 7' initiative, promoting 'abundant living' across all its setting. The values are repeatedly referenced across the school day. For example, working on a tough jigsaw sparked a conversation about perseverance. However, opportunities to have similar conversations about aspects of spirituality are not developed. This is because the school has not developed an embedded understanding of spirituality, based on policy or common language.

Pastoral care is a core strength of the school. With the changing needs of the community, there is a greater focus on social need and cultural diversity. In Reception most children now speak English as an additional language. The school has managed the changing context well and re-framed its vision in response. Working with the trust, All Saints Marsh has become adept at supporting families experiencing challenging circumstances. In line with the values of love and compassion, there is a strong ethos of caring for others. Pupils behave well and look out for the most vulnerable members of the community. The values provide secure grounding on which they are developing social skills and self-esteem. Parents and pupils alike acknowledge how this influence spreads beyond daily life in school. They correctly observe that, 'School teaches me to treat other people like I want to be treated'. High priority is given to the wellbeing of children and adults, supplemented by opportunities available through the trust. It is a marker of how much people love the school that attendance is above the national average. Staff work hard to help pupils understand that they can be change-makers. Through school, community and charity activities they learn that they have power to make the world a better place. However, opportunities to extend this sense of agency much beyond the local area are underdeveloped.

Worship is a powerful driver for the Christian vision and values of the school. Enthusiastic leadership and a strong weekly structure ensure that worship is consistently well-delivered. Pupils are engaged, responsive and thoughtful. They remember stories and their relevance long afterwards, talking about them around school as well as at home. The time spent together in worship is strongly valued by everyone. The approach is invitational, and pupils feel comfortable responding according to their own world views. Links with the parish church are being strengthened post-covid and the new headteacher's church commissioning service became a real community event. However, the lack of a shared understanding of spirituality means that there are fewer opportunities for private or impromptu reflection. RE has a high profile within the school and the trust. It is well resourced, with high-quality materials, and enthusiastically taught. Pupils encounter diverse faiths, consider challenging themes and study aspects of Christianity in depth. Lessons generate high levels of interest and engagement. Rich examples of this include looking at the experience of Hindus in Britain or considering issues of life's meaning. However, there is room for higher levels of achievement. This is because the direction of teaching and learning is not informed by high-quality assessment. Recent staff appointments have now reinforced the school's capacity to build on the

evident strengths of the subject.

All Saint's vision aligns closely with the vision of its academy trust, of 'abundant living'. This partnership enables the school to respond with confidence to changing, and sometimes challenging, circumstances. The trust was established with the moral purpose of building mutual support between church schools. Because of this it is specifically geared towards helping settings such as All Saints to thrive. This gives a 'firm foundation' for their work. Although the school is small, staff and pupils enjoy broader opportunities through engagement with the trust's local hub. The school plays its part in the life of the town. Pupils work towards the Civic Award for citizenship and are part of the town's Lantern Parade. Working together in the local area, the church sees All Saints Marsh as an extension of its presence into the community. This is a place that inspires particular commitment because of what one adult perceptively referred to as 'the magic that's here'. The support of the trust, the care of the parish and the commitment of staff all combine to enable this small school to flourish.

The inspection findings indicate that All Saints Marsh Church of England School is living up to its foundation as a church school.

Information			
Inspection date	23 November 2023	URN	142251
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	76
Diocese	Exeter		
MAT/Federation	Learning Academy Partnership South West		
Headteacher	Liam O'Sullivan		
Chair	Joanne Tisdall		
Inspector	Barbara Easton	No.	862