

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

| Stone St Mary's Church of England VC Primary School   |   |
|---|---|
| Address   | Hayes Road, Horn's Cross, Dartford, DA9 9EF |
| School vision   |   |
| <p>Caring, Growing, Shining Together</p> <p>Our school Christian vision is 'Caring, Growing Shining Together' which helps us to ensure that our pupils are able to experience and continue to experience 'life in all its fullness'. Taking inspiration from the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37) we make extra effort to care and look after our school community. We do this through being kind and forgiving to one another. We aim to grow our knowledge and understanding like fruit on the branches of the true vine (John 15:1-11). We strive to be the best that we can be in all that we do, and we shine our light before others so that they can see and value our achievements (Matthew 5:13-16).</p>  |   |
| School strengths  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school's Christian vision is life-affirming. It is embedded in everything the school does. Leaders are dedicated to ensuring that pupils and adults are able to flourish through caring, growing and shining together. This they do.</li> <li>• Collective worship deepens the spirituality of the school community. Pupils engage in worship with enthusiasm, deep respect and appreciation.</li> <li>• Pupils and adults are very happy at this school and learn within a strong culture of recognition and celebration.</li> <li>• Pupils see themselves as agents of change and stand up for issues they are passionate about. They are moved to action in responding to global issues.</li> <li>• The religious education (RE) curriculum allows pupils to flourish well. They highly value the subject and develop strong religious literacy.</li> </ul> |   |
| Areas for development   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the school's meaningful approach to spiritual development so that it underpins the taught and wider curriculum.</li> <li>• Create more opportunities for pupils to experience trips and visits in RE so that they can gain a wider perspective of faiths.</li> </ul>   |   |
| Inspection findings   |   |
| <p>The strong and inspirational Christian vision has a huge effect in this school. Pupils aspire to be a Good Samaritan ('caring'). They want each other to flourish like branches on the vine ('growing'). Leaders enable the community to live out a responsibility of serving and supporting one another. This ensures that the vision becomes a reality for all. The school is a beacon within the community and its vision is fully aligned with and supported by the Aletheia Academies Trust. The biblical passages that underpin the vision inspire and mobilise the school community very effectively. Pupils</p>  |   |

are inspired to speak out, spread love and shine in their gifts and talents. School leaders are acutely aware that shining looks different for each and every pupil and adult. Pupils are prepared for the next stage of their education and lives exceptionally well. They are encouraged to be independent and think about their own personal vision and plans for the future. Adults are developed very well. They enjoy serving as practitioners and flourish in their career development with bespoke training and progression opportunities. The school consistently shines its light to other schools. It shares best practice and is a flagship for other schools in the community.

The curriculum allows pupils to thrive extremely well. Pupils develop academically, socially and spiritually. They see themselves as partners in their learning with each other, their teachers and their parents. There are meaningful opportunities for pupils to explore big questions. These can be accessed by all, including those who are more vulnerable and have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Such questions help pupils to develop spiritually. However, there are limited opportunities within the curriculum for spiritual development. Pupils are coached and they are sufficiently challenged and supported. Adults encourage pupils to be fearless learners who actively take risks. Pupils are equipped to teach parts of the lesson to each other. The extra-curricular clubs are highly engaging and contribute to pupils' wider development. Enrichment activities such as sewing, yoga, chess and football cater to the diverse interests of the pupils. This consolidates their learning and allows them to shine in their knowledge, skills and talents.

Collective worship is highly inclusive and engaging, flowing from the vision. Pupils of different faiths feel included and value times of reflection and prayer. Themes within collective worship are built on and developed through many other areas of the curriculum. Worship helps to affirm the school as a spiritual community of love, appreciation and celebration. Pupils readily share the biblical stories they learn during worship with their parents and carers. This broadens and strengthens the impact of the vision on the wider community. Pupils are challenged with deep messages in worship and they contribute to pupils' cultural, moral and spiritual development. They enjoy music as a beautiful expression of worship. Prayer and reflection are highly valued by the school community. The partnership with the parish church enriches the spiritual life of pupils and adults. They worship at the church for all the major Christian festivals. The vicar and other church volunteers come into school to lead worship for the younger pupils in a way that is more bespoke and age appropriate. After the school day, Messy Church is led at the school and is open to pupils and their families to attend. This allows the inclusive worship life of the school to extend to the wider community.

As part of the vision, the African philosophy of Ubuntu - 'I am because we are' - is powerfully lived out. It underpins the care, support and respect pupils and adults give to each other. Pupils are known and nurtured here. They are powerfully taught and reminded to shine their light and not hide it under a basket. Even achievements and successes that pupils accomplish in the wider community are readily recognised and commended. Every child is included in the vision, regardless of the needs and challenges they may have. The community thoroughly enjoy opportunities to celebrate the cultural and religious diversity of the school community. Pupils' behaviour and conduct are transformed through the vision; they behave in an exemplary way. They are passionate about treating each other well and their self-led anti-bullying campaigns consistently raise awareness and bring change. Adults go above and beyond to ensure pupils' wellbeing is strong. They provide opportunities to support pupils in self-regulating their emotions and well-being. Well-being pupil ambassadors readily support their peers to ensure they are happy as they live out the vision. Pupils of different faiths and backgrounds all thrive together in this harmonious community.

Through the vision, pupils are actively encouraged to use their voice and stand up for their beliefs. They are taught that shining their light also means speaking up when something is unjust. They sympathise with those who do not have the same life chances and opportunities as them and desire to see change in their local and global communities. The sponsorship and partnership with a

primary school in Sierra Leone is transformational. The community of Stone St Mary's raise significant funds to ensure all pupils in this school have a uniform and a library to support their learning. Pupils are proud of this work. They are grateful for the opportunity in helping others who are less fortunate to shine. Inspired by the vision, pupils seek opportunities to serve. Pupils nominate charities of their own and support them passionately. Pupils' courageous actions bring about change in the community. The local parish church is inspired by the work of the pupils. Pupils' eco-conscious drive inspires the church with their environmental initiatives. Pupils engage in meaningful campaigns around climate change and pollution.

Pupils passionately enjoy the RE curriculum. This is enhanced by inclusive creative mediums such as drama, music and art. Through this they develop strong theological and philosophical understanding. They learn about a range of world faiths and see RE as a vehicle to promote respect and appreciation of different beliefs and worldviews. They develop rich skills in debate and ask big questions. RE is well led by a subject leader who monitors the provision and supports other teachers. Pupils have limited opportunities to visit different places of worship as part of the RE curriculum.

The inspection findings indicate that Stone St Mary's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling people to flourish.

| Information     |                          |                |        |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Inspection date | 16 November 2023         | URN            | 144098 |
| VC/VA/Academy   | Academy                  | Pupils on roll | 642    |
| Diocese         | Rochester                |                |        |
| MAT/Federation  | Aletheia Academies Trust |                |        |
| Headteacher     | Jane Rolfe               |                |        |
| Chair           | Mark Till                |                |        |
| Inspector       | Andrew Wignal            | No.            | 2118   |