

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

### St Cecilia's Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

'Therefore encourage one another, and build each other up.' Thessalonians 5: 11

St Cecilia's Church of England 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

- Committed leaders place the Christian vision at the heart of strategic planning at St Cecilia's, so that it underpins policies and decisions. Their effective monitoring and evaluation ensures that the vision is lived out through daily practices and experiences. This enables adults and pupils to flourish.
- The curriculum is designed carefully to meet pupils' needs in this diverse community. Thoughtfully selected resources and topics enhance pupils' social, spiritual and personal development.
- Collective worship is valued highly by staff and pupils. Its inclusive and invitational style enables adults and pupils to participate meaningfully and flourish spiritually.
- The vision of encouragement and building each other up is deeply embedded. As a result, relationships are harmonious and pupils are courteous and happy. Pupils with additional needs are encouraged and supported very well, so flourish.
- Religious education (RE) has a high profile, reflecting the school's Church foundation. The curriculum is well balanced, diverse and accurate. Effective subject leadership ensures that it is reviewed and enhanced appropriately.

#### Development Points

- Build on pupils' strong sense of responsibility to further extend opportunities for them to understand and make ethical choices. This is to enhance their skills and confidence in making a difference for others and having a positive impact.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders at all levels pioneer a community where adults and pupils' gifts are celebrated. The associated values of perseverance, forgiveness, gratitude, kindness, truthfulness and wisdom guide relationships. The commitment to encouragement welcomes pupils from across a diverse community, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Professional development is prioritised and supported by The Keys Academy Trust (TKAT). Trustees and governors know the school well and reflect with deep interest on the way the vision is being lived out. They visit worship and talk to pupils about playground behaviour. Their monitoring and evaluation is highly effective. This has enabled the school to become established, adapt and develop swiftly in line with its Church foundation. As a result, adults and pupils work happily and purposefully together and flourish.

### Vision and Curriculum

Pupils are inspired by a rich curriculum and extra-curricular activities that meet their needs well. A strong emphasis on language development helps those who speak English as an additional language (EAL) to participate fully. Pupils are proud that their school is named after St Cecilia, the patron saint of music. They enjoy singing, choir and learning instruments. Performing in concerts with the Wokingham Music Association boosts their confidence and sense of achievement. Playing music together also fosters pupils' spiritual and emotional growth. Lesson topics reflect the school's diverse cultures and offer a global perspective, for example study of the Shang dynasty. Building pupils' understanding of care for God's world through local environmental issues is equally important, such as studying a nearby river. Literature choices help pupils develop empathy and appreciate others' experiences. This supports their engagement with and reflection on moral questions. The curriculum thus broadens pupils' horizons and nurtures their personal and spiritual growth. Leaders' planning and staff training is focused on further strengthening the spiritual dimension of different subjects. As a result, it is increasingly a focus in the curriculum.

### Worship and Spirituality

Pupils and adults' spiritual development is enriched through daily collective worship. Whether gathered as the whole school or in class, they have opportunity to worship joyfully and to pray or reflect. Pupils explore their personal responses to God and theological ideas through discussion with partners and quiet contemplation. They are invited to participate and discern spiritually in ways that are personally meaningful, whatever their faith or worldview. Leaders strengthen pupils' understanding of the school's Christian vision by exploring one of the values each half term. These inform weekly themes for pupils to consider and discuss. Pupils grow spiritually as they reflect on what the values mean and how this affects their actions. For example, they discuss the Bible story about how Miriam showed kindness in rescuing Moses. They then identify and share their own acts of kindness at worship later in the week. Partnerships with the parish church, the Baptist and the Gospel churches boost pupils' understanding of the breadth of Christian tradition. Such services help pupils to connect Christian values with real-life examples of faith in action. Visitors' contributions to worship, including some from the Muslim community, promote respect, curiosity and appreciation of religious diversity. St Cecilia's is well supported by the diocese and TKAT. Training and network meetings about spirituality and collective worship help leaders ensure that provision has impact and is meaningful. Joining other TKAT schools online for worship is uplifting for adults and pupils as it becomes 'collective' across the trust.

### Vision and School Culture

The vision of encouragement and building each other up secures a determination to include everyone and help them to flourish. St Cecilia's welcomes pupils of many cultures and faiths. Leaders therefore emphasise the need for pupils to appreciate and respect their differences and to 'build each other up'. Staff are skilled in meeting the



needs of pupils with SEND and EAL, enabling them to participate in class along with their friends. Pupils behave well and are respectful towards each other and to adults, so a calm environment prevails. This has a positive impact on wellbeing. High quality pastoral support includes a dedicated space for recuperation for anyone who needs some time out. Pupils collaborate across year groups, with older pupils supporting younger ones. This strengthens the culture of kindness. When disagreements arise, the Christian value of forgiveness underpins resolution and reconciliation, so maintaining a supportive and dignifying culture. Staff are treated well and have extensive opportunities for career development and professional fulfilment. TKAT networks support subject and school leadership. Staff show great dedication because leaders are committed to ensuring that they flourish as well as the pupils. Care for adults extends to parents, who find staff approachable and supportive. Workshops such as 'digital parenting' both provide practical help and demonstrate the vision being put into practice. As a result of this culture, pupils feel included, respected and supported.

#### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

St Cecilia's inclusive ethos is rooted in the Christian belief that every person is valued and made in the image of God. Pupils demonstrate respect for others' rights, beliefs and traditions through their behaviour towards each other. They engage with issues of justice and responsibility through the curriculum and worship. Giving thanks at Harvest provides an important focus for pupils to make collections for the local foodbank. Pupils consider ethical questions such as fair trade in geography and debate issues of equality in English. When learning about civil rights in America in history, pupils embrace principles of courage and equality. This helps them to make meaningful connections between faith, history and social change. They speak about how this inspires them to stand up for what is right and to act with integrity in their own lives. Older pupils have leadership roles, which foster responsibility and service to the community. The school council makes thoughtful decisions about charitable activities. Some fundraising events are initiated by pupils as a response to issues affecting their community. Pupils feel that they can make a difference to others, but this is at the early stages of development.

#### Religious Education

RE has a high profile with weekly lessons, as appropriate to the school's Church foundation. The RE curriculum is effective and offers pupils opportunity to study world religions and worldviews in depth. It is well-sequenced and relevant to pupils' experiences. The curriculum is supplemented with a range of materials to enhance the range of themes taught. The subject is well-resourced and enriched by a range of artefacts, so that teachers can bring learning to life. Consequently pupils develop an understanding of non-religious worldviews and Christianity as a global religion. Planning includes consideration of pupils' philosophical and spiritual development. RE leadership is supported well through training, advice and networks provided by TKAT and the diocese. As a result, planning is clear and teachers receive expert guidance, so they are confident in teaching RE.

## Information

Address	Howlett Grove, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 1BJ		
Date	02 December 2025	URN	149555
Type of school	Free School	No. of pupils	130
Diocese	Oxford		
MAT	The Keys Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	David Horrocks		
Executive Headteacher	Hester Wooller		
Head of School	Richard Thomas		
Chair of Governors	David Horrocks		
Inspector	Rachel A Jones		