

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bentley St. Paul's Church of England Primary School

Vision

Growing together in faith, love and trust, we will succeed.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8 v28.

Bentley St. Paul's C of E 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 school's deeply embedded Christian vision shapes relationships, decision-making and daily life. It creates a culture in which pupils and adults flourish with confidence, dignity and purpose.
- The curriculum is thoughtfully shaped by the school's Christian vision. It enables pupils to think deeply, act wisely and engage with the world with curiosity and compassion.
- Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and spiritually enriching. It strengthens the shared life of the school and inspires reflection, prayer and personal growth.
- The school's Christian vision creates a deeply nurturing and highly inclusive culture. Pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those facing significant barriers, are exceptionally well supported to flourish.
- Religious education (RE) is a significant strength. The rigorous and engaging curriculum enables pupils to develop secure knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other religions and worldviews.

Development Points

- Deepen pupils' understanding of spirituality and how spiritual experiences shape their understanding of themselves and others. This will provide pupils with opportunities to articulate clearly the impact of reflection and discussion about life, beliefs and the world.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Bentley St Paul's Christian vision shapes leadership and daily life across the school. Rooted in scripture, the vision was created collaboratively and remains central to relationships and the opportunities provided for pupils. Leaders and governors are committed to ensuring that decisions are guided by what they consider is best for pupils and staff to flourish. This is evident in the school's deliberate decision to join a Church of England multi-academy trust following the pandemic. Leaders recognise and ensure that collaboration strengthens support for pupils and staff whilst preserving the school's distinctive Christian character. Governors know the community well through regular involvement in school life. This understanding ensures that the vision continues to shape the school's culture and priorities. It is lived out by pupils and staff, creating a strong sense of belonging and trust. As a result, the school flourishes within a culture of aspiration, care and mutual respect.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum is shaped carefully by the school's Christian vision and designed to meet the needs of its community. Leaders have created a bespoke curriculum that values both academic achievement and personal development. Pupils are equipped to flourish in the wider world. Opportunities for spiritual development are integrated throughout school life. Reflection areas and discussion provide meaningful opportunities for pupils to consider their life experiences, beliefs and the world around them. However, pupils do not clearly articulate how spiritual experiences shape their understanding of themselves and others. The outdoor environment, including the pupil-designed peace garden, provides further opportunities for reflection and quiet contemplation. Pupils benefit from a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom. These include leadership roles, residential visits, gardening and performances. Consequently, they develop confidence, responsibility and a strong sense of belonging. Provision is adapted carefully to remove barriers to learning whilst maintaining high expectations. As a result, pupils, including those who have SEND, participate fully in the life of the school and flourish alongside their peers.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is central to the life of the school and reflects its Christian vision clearly. Leaders have planned worship carefully so that it is rooted in the school's context, values and biblical understanding. Consequently, pupils engage meaningfully with Bible stories and increasingly understand how Christian teaching relates to their own lives and relationships. Worship is invitational, inclusive and inspiring. Pupils and adults participate respectfully in shared prayer, liturgy, singing and reflection. This creates a calm atmosphere in which pupils and adults grow spiritually together. Strong partnerships with the local church, clergy and the wider Christian community enrich worship. They strengthen the school's Christian foundation. Opportunities for spiritual reflection are woven naturally throughout worship. Pupils speak thoughtfully about how it encourages them to support one another. They consider different perspectives and reflect on their actions and choices. They value the opportunities to pause and think deeply.

Vision and School Culture

The school's Christian vision creates a deeply nurturing and inclusive culture. Pupils and adults are treated with dignity, compassion and respect. Leaders ensure that pupils are known and valued as individuals. Pupils, including those with complex additional needs, access the same rich opportunities as their peers. As a result of the nurture they receive, pupils grow in confidence, independence and resilience over time. Relationships across the school are exceptionally strong. Pupils interact with one another kindly and respectfully. Behaviour across the school reflects the strong culture of care and mutual support. Pupils care for one another naturally. Those who have SEND are fully included within the social life of the school. Calm and purposeful playtimes reflect the culture of mutual respect that permeates school life. Staff feel supported and valued by leaders, governors and the trust. Their wellbeing is prioritised through supportive professional relationships, manageable workload



expectations and opportunities for shared worship and reflection. As a result, staff feel cared for both professionally and personally.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The school's Christian vision creates a strong culture of justice, responsibility and service. Pupils are encouraged to consider how their actions can positively influence the lives of others. Through collective worship, the curriculum and wider opportunities, pupils develop a growing understanding of fairness, compassion and responsibility. Pupils recognise injustice and understand the importance of standing up for what is right. Consequently, pupils speak maturely about supporting one another, respecting difference and working together for the good of all. Pupils benefit from a wide range of leadership opportunities, including school ministers, prefects, team captains and trust ambassadors. These enable pupils to contribute actively to school life and develop as responsible citizens. Partnerships with local churches, charities and community organisations strengthen pupils' understanding of service and positive action. Pupils participate enthusiastically in fundraising and community support for local and national causes. This includes the Brentwood food bank and charities supporting vulnerable people. Through learning about diversity, equality and global issues, pupils think critically and discuss ethical questions respectfully.

Religious Education

Religious education (RE) is a strength of the school and is valued highly as a core subject. The curriculum reflects the school's Christian vision and meets the needs of pupils effectively. Leaders have created a carefully structured, knowledge-rich curriculum. This enables pupils to develop a secure understanding of Christianity, and a range of religions and non-religious worldviews over time. Learning is planned progressively from the early years onwards. Leaders monitor and evaluate RE regularly to ensure that the curriculum remains relevant, ambitious and responsive to pupils' needs.

Effective teaching and assessment in RE enable pupils to build secure knowledge and understanding over time. Visits to places of worship, opportunities for reflection and discussion, and engagement with visitors enrich pupils' learning and understanding of faith and belief within the wider world. Pupils recall prior learning, make connections between ideas and discuss their thinking with growing confidence. Classroom discussion is a strength of the subject where pupils demonstrate curiosity and respect. Older pupils speak maturely about how RE encourages deeper reflection and consideration of perspectives different from their own. Teachers use assessment carefully to identify gaps in understanding and adapt future learning. Consequently, pupils participate successfully and progress well.

Information

Address	Ashwells Road, Bentley, Essex, CM15 9SE		
Date	7 May 2026	URN	149971
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	203
Diocese	Diocese of Chelmsford		
MAT/Federation	Mid Essex Anglican Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	Andrew Barton		
Headteacher	Louise Putt		
Chair of Governors	Phil Russell		
Inspector	Anthony Cosans		