

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

<b>Exbourne Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	Exbourne, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 3SQ

### School vision

Exbourne: Encouraging Excellence  
 'Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds.'  
 Hebrews 10:24

### School strengths

- The school's vision is lived out through its Christian values. This creates a sense of family and community where pupils' needs are met as individuals, enabling all to flourish.
- Leaders are ambitious at all levels. Their clear direction for improvements ensures staff development encourages excellence.
- Strong partnerships help to shape the provision for collective worship for all pupils so that it is inspiring and raises staff confidence to lead. This makes a significant and positive impact for pupils which they articulate clearly.
- The school's vision drives the rich offering of curriculum experiences. These experiences connect the school with its community so that pupils can discover talents and a love of learning. The school's curriculum is being informed by love and good deeds.
- The multi-academy trust (the Trust) enables a sharing of expertise. This supports the school through the renewing of its vision and curriculum.

### Areas for development

- Agree a shared language of spirituality to ensure leaders enable pupils and adults to talk about it with confidence.
- Enable pupils to apply their understanding of injustice and deprivation to become independent agents for change.

## Inspection findings

Exbourne Church of England Primary School has worked to ensure that its vision has a strong Christian underpinning that enables pupils and adults to flourish. Its impact is evident in the daily experiences of pupils and staff. The school's vision reflects a commitment to nurturing the spiritual, moral, academic and social development of all individuals within its community. In renewing its vision, the school has successfully created a culture of partnership and collaboration with parents. The active involvement of parents demonstrates a shared commitment to the Christian vision of the school, fostering a sense of community. Through its commitment to collective growth and improvement, the Trust actively participates in supporting pupils and adults to flourish at Exbourne. Through initiatives such as 'The Big Listen', all are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and ideas. This collaborative approach ensures that the school's renewed vision is informed by a diverse range of voices, encouraging excellence for all.

Exbourne works supportively to live out its vision in strong partnerships. This is demonstrated in the governors' work which has been instrumental in monitoring and developing its Christian vision. Local governors, known as school advocates, play a key role in this process. The encouraging of excellence for all pupils is evident, with Trust leaders emphasising the collective responsibility of the community in impacting outcomes for all pupils. The support of the Foundry Hub has led to the development of connections for teachers and leaders across schools. This ethos supports a culture of collaboration, linked to the school's vision.

At Exbourne, the curriculum reflects the school's vision of encouraging excellence. Through its alignment with the school's ethos, it is also supported by professional development for staff. Leaders have created a curriculum which focuses on sequencing, progression and knowledge. Despite the challenges of a small school context, Trust curriculum leaders have been developed. This ensures that all curriculum areas, including religious education (RE), receive appropriate attention and resources. Collaboration with external partners and the diocese has been vital in reviewing progress and planning for the school's future.

School and Trust leaders ensure that the profile and priority of RE reflects its place on the curriculum as a Church school. Diversity, equality and inclusion are fundamental components of the curriculum, with staff meetings dedicated to challenging stereotypes. Themes such as Remembrance and the Nativity story are explored to promote understanding and empathy. The reading aloud library initiative ensures that children engage in sensitive and challenging conversations, promoting an awareness of diversity. The curriculum is developing to create meaningful connections, with texts carefully selected to foster ambition and facilitate transition to secondary school. This reflects the school's drive for excellence and collaboration.

Collective worship at Exbourne supports spiritual growth and flourishing for pupils and adults. Consideration is also given to diversity through collective worship where different faiths and ethnicities are explored. Alongside this, the school also works to foster a sense of belonging and awareness of those close to us. The inclusion of biblical extracts and values in worship sessions helps to link school values with the Bible. This provides a framework for ethical and moral development. Storytelling leads worship, engaging pupils and adults in meaningful narratives that inspire reflection. The partnership between the school and church demonstrates a strong relationship that extends beyond the school day. Together, they organise opportunities for children, such as Messy Church. Teachers are supported in leading worship by school and church leaders, who provide guidance on themes and engagement with spiritual practices. The introduction of a reflection folder allows pupils to actively engage in worship. Through this, pupils summarise different elements of a worship session, pose questions or add thought-provoking responses. This provides a meaningful reflection tool for both students and leaders. The school is still developing its approaches and understanding of the role of spirituality in school life as well as its impact across the curriculum. As a result, pupils and staff do not confidently articulate a shared language or understanding of spirituality.

Exbourne creates and promotes a sense of responsibility for all pupils. The school council provides a platform for pupils to express their ideas and support initiatives within the school. Partnerships with organisations, like the Devon Wildlife Trust, enable pupils to become stewards of the environment. Engagement in community activities, such as reading sessions at the community shop, illustrates the school's commitments to fostering connections and addressing social isolation. Through this, pupils act to spur one another to acts of love and good deeds.

However, the school recognises the need to further enable pupils to apply their understanding of justice and deprivation to become independent agents for change.

The Christian vision at Exbourne fosters a culture where both adults and pupils are treated with care and respect. Every pupil is known as an individual. This environment serves to uplift and encourage one another, particularly benefitting vulnerable children who may need additional assistance. A blended support network ensures that leaders at every level are actively involved with supporting pupils to overcome challenges. The collaboration between primary and secondary teams enables a smooth transition for all pupils. This empowers pupils to achieve excellence both within and beyond primary school. The school demonstrates a proactive approach to mental health support, with senior mental health leaders providing clinical supervision for staff. Tailored support is also provided for children. This is grounded in trauma-informed practice. Furthermore, the lived-out vision of both the Trust and school ensures that staff wellbeing and development are prioritised. Communication is also a priority. Conversations extend beyond the school to involve families. This reflects a commitment to love and good deeds that benefits all pupils.

The inspection findings indicate that Exbourne Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

### Information

Inspection date	5 February 2024	URN	145339
VA/VC/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	33
Diocese	Exeter		
MAT/Federation	Dartmoor MAT		
Headteacher	Tara Penny		
Chair	Emma Neath		
Inspector	Antonia Lavictoire	No.	C.23/24