

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Vision

‘Everyone is Welcome’

At Freemantle we remember the parable of the Good Samaritan and ask all members of our school family to “Love thy neighbour as yourself” Mark 12.31. Freemantle pupils are taken on a journey of growth and discovery to become global citizens who respect and care for each other and the world around them. Our pupils are encouraged to take an active role in developing a culture of mutual respect to grow into compassionate and courageous individuals destined to succeed.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The Christian vision and values permeate through all aspects of school life to ensure that everyone feels part of the Freemantle family. It has a transformational impact upon the community which it serves.
- Leaders at all levels are inspirational, passionate, thoughtful and caring. Pupils make significant progress academically, socially and spiritually during their journey through the school.
- Pupils and adults are deeply valued as individuals and feel respected, trusted and loved. There is a tangible sense of pride about belonging to the school.
- The school is highly inclusive and welcoming. Adults and pupil leaders are prepared to stand up for others because of their strong sense of moral purpose.
- The school is built on a foundation of fellowship where relationships matter. Pupils and staff are happy and there is culture of inquisitive joyfulness throughout the school.

Development Points

- Strengthen the partnership with the local church, including in the support of collective worship. This is so that school and church together enrich the spiritual life of their community.
- Embed the knowledge and skills introduced through the recently implemented religious education (RE) curriculum. This is so that pupils deepen their understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews.



Inspection Findings

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy is a wonderful school. The vision is a living reality as everyone associated with the school is made to feel valued. There is a determination from leaders to prioritise the pupils' social, emotional and spiritual development as well as their academic progress. The curriculum is based around creating a love of language. A carefully planned reading spine provides all children with access to a range of stories from which the subject specific learning is developed. Notable investment is provided to ensure the pupils have access to the variety of texts used. Each learning experience is thoughtfully considered to ensure it meets the needs of the specific cohort of pupils. Off-site trips such as to the New Forest or local historical sites give pupils the chance to broaden their horizons. The memories created from these adventures help to further strengthen the ethos of the 'Freemantle family'.

Leaders at all levels are inspirational. The directors and executive officer are passionate about ensuring that every pupil and staff member feels valued and reaches their potential. This ambition is superbly led by the headteacher and deputy headteacher who are highly skilled in providing clear strategic direction for others to follow. Phase and subject leaders are knowledgeable about their areas of responsibility. Through effective evaluation and an unwavering focus on the holistic development of the pupils, the school is constantly striving to improve. Staff are very well supported through training. The school has formed effective partnerships with the Southampton Cooperative Learning Trust and the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocese to provide enhanced professional development opportunities. The whole school community benefits from this willingness to embrace the hand of mutual friendship. Pupils are positive role models for their peers. Opportunities to be mental health champions, pupil leaders and recruitment panel team members are carried out with pride and diligence. Pupils feel as though their voice is heard and that they can make a difference to the world around them.

Daily collective worship enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. The songs of praise worship provides a naturally joyful start to the week and a sense of togetherness as a school. This is mirrored in the behaviour and attitudes of the pupils throughout the school day. The inclusive nature of worship time is valued. It provides an opportunity to reflect upon the impact individuals have on those around them. It also enables the pupils and adults to discuss their own thoughts and beliefs within a trusting environment. There is a shared understanding of spiritual development using the symbols of mirrors, doors, windows and candles. This supports individuals to reflect upon themselves, their relationship with others, the beauty of the world around them and their own journey of faith. Leaders ensure that collective worship reflects the school's vision and values. The working partnership between the church and the school is in its early stages, including in the support of collective worship.

The curriculum planning for RE has recently been rewritten. It has not yet had the time to be embedded in terms of pupils' deeper understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews. However, the RE leader is knowledgeable and has a clear vision for the ongoing development of the subject. Key learning outcomes and concepts are well sequenced. A planned cycle of staff training supports the implementation of the new curriculum. The study of Christianity is prioritised alongside those of other faiths and worldviews. These are chosen to reflect and celebrate the diverse nature of the local community. Pupils enjoy the opportunities provided to discuss and investigate similarities between religions, such as the importance of light as a symbol of goodness. The use of floor books enables everyone's voice to be heard and key learning to be delivered in a variety of creative ways. Embedding the updated curriculum is a key development point for the school.



Across the school, there is a sense of moral purpose. In their early years, the pupils display a clear understanding of the importance of everyone in their class having the right to feel welcomed and safe. They also learn to take care of their learning environment and resources. As pupils journey through the school, they begin to make courageous choices and actively seek to challenge injustice. Projects such as Rethink Period Awareness and campaigning for a new safer road crossing to be installed demonstrate the pupils' mature level of responsibility. They also display empathy towards their peers such as organising a summer fair to raise money to subsidise school trips for others. The pupils thrive in their leadership roles because adults demonstrate they value their thoughtful opinions. Leaders understand the injustices of modern society. They make ethical decisions about how resources are provided to support those who are most vulnerable or disadvantaged. The school is at the heart of community. The weekly parent and toddler group is hugely valued by parents and carers as a place to bond with others and make long-lasting friendships. The parents and carers view the school as a place where everyone can feel free to express themselves as a unique individual. This sense of connection is epitomised through the weekly creative arts session held at the church. Families from all faiths, and those of no faith, are invited to gather in unison to participate in Christian themed craft activities.

Through a foundation of fellowship, pupils and adults feel as though they belong and actively contribute to the success of the school. There are 61 different first languages spoken across the cohorts and the school unites them together to sing in harmony with each other. Pupils and adults are treated with dignity and respect. This enables them to flourish and treat each other well. The school is a sanctuary of safety and calmness for those in crisis. The caring nature of the school is visibly demonstrated on a daily basis by those who are part of the inclusion team. It is seen as a second family by the children, staff and community. Through laughter, tears, prayer and a sense of togetherness, everyone is made not only to feel welcomed at Freemantle but also loved. It is a shining example of how faith-led school leadership can transform the lives of the families it serves.

Information

Address	Mansion Road, Freemantle, Southampton, SO15 3BQ		
Date	21 November 2024	URN	136641
Type of school	Primary (single academy)	No. of pupils	436 (including nursery) 407 (excluding nursery)
Diocese	Portsmouth and Winchester		
Headteacher	Nina Myszkowski		
Chair of Directors	Val Caldwell		
Inspector	Nigel Helm		