

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

### St Dominic Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

At St. Dominic, our aim is to inspire a lifetime of adventure. Our 'Bring It!' vision requires us to ensure our pupils are excited by and fully engaged in their learning and school experience more widely. Our vision is deeply rooted in the teachings of Jesus, specifically the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). In our school community, we understand this parable as a lesson on the unique abilities God has bestowed upon us. We support children to use their talents to create positive school memories with their friends that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

St Dominic 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

- The 'Bring It!' vision and associated values are embedded and are being lived out at St. Dominic. Consequently, pupils and adults joyfully share and develop their talents and values over time.
- Pupils and families' wellbeing and mental health are looked after exceptionally well. This is due to pupils being well-known and understood by adults.
- The curriculum is shaped so that pupils are included and enabled to flourish. This includes those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Pupils have their spirituality nurtured through impactful collective worship and reflective activities across the curriculum.
- Consistent approaches to teaching, learning and assessment in religious education (RE) ensure that pupils grow their knowledge and make good progress.

#### Development Points

- Extend the RE curriculum so that pupils learn about the diversity within religions, including how Christianity is practised globally. This is so that they deepen their understanding of the different ways people of faith and no faith practise their beliefs.
- Maximise opportunities for pupils to actively contribute to worship. This is so that more pupils have the opportunity to grow spiritually through prayer, reflection, Bible stories and Christian example.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

The vision 'Bring It!' underpins daily life at St Dominic. Based on the Parable of the Talents, pupils and adults are encouraged to bring their talents and interests to school. Families are enabled to nurture these abilities. For example, by offering flexibility in the timetable so that pupils can attend competitive events. Talents are cultivated and celebrated at school too, as are the values of friendship, creativity and courage. The school has the same vision as St Barnabas Multi-Academy Trust, and there is a strong shared approach. The trust supports the school in offering many more opportunities to pupils and adults. Funding is allocated to ensure that class sizes are kept deliberately small fostering individual talents and enabling flourishing. There are frequent opportunities for pupils to engage in trust-wide activities, including collective worship and educational visits. There is also a close partnership with the diocese. Trust and school leaders engage in diocesan programmes, training and activities. This contributes strongly to the flourishing of pupils and adults at St Dominic.

### Vision and Curriculum

The wider curriculum offer is much more extensive than would typically be available to pupils in a small village school. Due to the vision, the curriculum is shaped so that pupils are able to experience a wide range of activities. Trust outdoor education leaders regularly work with pupils at St Dominic. Consequently, pupils experience frequent exciting and challenging trips, such as the Three Peaks Challenge and gorge walking. These activities provoke pupils to develop their character through bringing the school values to challenges. Pupils develop their spirituality through the curriculum too. They are frequently asked to reflect on themselves, others and on the beauty of creation. Opportunities to develop spirituality are carefully planned into the curriculum. Pupils also enhance their spirituality during the extra-curricular offer. From Year 2 onwards, pupils are provided with regular offerings of residential experiences, which further develop the values. This includes pupils who have SEND, and those considered vulnerable. Enhanced provision and opportunities are tailored to meet their needs, for example, the recent trip to Nethercott Farm.

### Worship and Spirituality

Pupils flourish in worship, which is referred to as an assembly, at St Dominics. They routinely discuss how assemblies spiritually nourish them. The clear, shared approach to developing spirituality is known by pupils and adults. This allows the community to communicate how they are flourishing. Pupils enjoy participating in reflections, discussions, songs and prayer. They enjoy learning about Bible stories and take turns evaluating worship. Pupil worship leaders enjoy setting the scene for worship and leading readings and prayers. However, there are limited opportunities for other pupils, groups and classes to actively contribute during collective worship. The school has a good relationship with the parish, supporting shared worship. Christmas, Easter and Harvest are celebrated in the local church, with families invited to attend. These services help pupils understand the Christian year and Anglican worship.

### Vision and School Culture

As a result of the vision, adults develop a good understanding of pupils' individual gifts and interests. This enables them to build strong relationships with pupils and families, which helps pupils to flourish. For example, members of staff will go out of their way to respond to families' messages, even outside of the school day. Adults consider pupils' needs and routinely make adaptations to enable pupils to flourish. When needed, pupils have access to additional activities or external advisors to ensure that they are able to succeed. The staff look after each other well. They are a close-knit team that routinely supports one another, especially in difficult times. Trust leaders provide flexible and pertinent support to the school community, including training, mental health and wellbeing services for staff. Newly appointed leaders work hard to provide support to colleagues and families. Consequently, St Dominic is a happy school where adults are flourishing professionally, and pupils are thriving.



### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils learn to take responsibility for themselves and others. Pupils often show friendship and compassion to one another. Play leaders help their peers to enjoy breaktimes. The eco council recently achieved an award for their work. Pupils love volunteering to pick up litter and reminding each other to conserve energy. Others recognise their impact on the environment and ask leaders to help them reduce it. For example, pupils lobbied staff to replace disposable glue sticks with refillable alternatives. Pupils learn about others less fortunate than themselves and are inspired to take action. They ask if they can run stalls at the school fayre to raise money for charity. Much of this response to injustice is a spontaneous reaction to stimuli shared with the pupils. There are fewer opportunities provided to pupils within lessons to learn about justice and to plan a considered ethical response.

### Religious Education

The RE curriculum is designed and adapted to align with the local community. For example, pupils learn about people of faith and no faith in Cornwall. They build their knowledge over time due to a carefully sequenced progression of units. Pupils return to themes at appropriate intervals and then build on their prior learning. The regularity of RE lessons each week ensures that they can retain their learning. The curriculum is designed to have a high level of challenge in learning. There is an appropriate balance between Christianity and world faiths and non-religious worldviews. However, pupils have limited understanding of the diversity of practice and tradition within each faith, including global Christianity. Leaders are equipped to lead through access to training and support from both the trust and the diocese. They also receive time to monitor and evaluate the curriculum and provide developmental feedback to colleagues.

The school has effectively adopted the trust's approach to teaching, learning and assessment in RE. Units of work start with a recap of prior knowledge and lessons start with a clear learning objective. These approaches enable pupils to be clear about how they will acquire new learning. Vocabulary is introduced and practised regularly which helps with retention of knowledge. Pupils are interested and engaged in their learning in RE. Younger pupils enjoy retelling and acting out Bible stories. Older pupils reflect well on religious texts. They consider their own and others' feelings. For instance, when they write retellings of events from a character's point of view. A range of effective assessment strategies are used. This ensures that teachers are able to identify effective next steps in learning for each pupil and supports pupils' progress.

## Information

Address	St Dominick, Saltash, Cornwall, PL12 6SU		
Date	20 May 2026	URN	148695
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	89
Diocese	Truro		
MAT	St Barnabas Multi-Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	Steve Bulmer		
Headteacher	Martin Evely		
Chair of Governors	June Jeffries		
Inspector	Claire Platt		