

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Powell's Church of England (VA) Primary School

Vision

Talk, learn, grow on our journey together. Luke 24: 13-35 'The road to Emmaus'

Talk: represents not just the act of talking and how we learn but the relationships we have within our school community. We know the strength of these relationships ensure that our children are encouraged and nurtured to be the very best they can be.

Learn: we want our children to learn to their best ability and to learn about life and how to serve one another and live with love and kindness in the world.

Grow: we recognise life is about growth and we want the children to be the best versions of themselves and as they journey through Powell's we encourage them and support them to achieve this.

Powell'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

- Powell's Christian vision, rooted in the story of the Emmaus Road, is readily articulated by pupils and adults. It is woven into the life of the school and is the driving force behind leaders' strategic decisions. As a result, lives are transformed as the school community journeys together.
- A deep understanding of spirituality is enriched by a broad range of thoughtfully mapped opportunities for prayer and contemplation. As a result, pupils and adults flourish spiritually.
- The culture of justice and responsibility permeates school life. Consequently, pupils make a positive difference and support others on their own journeys.
- Collective worship, enhanced by the strong and highly effective partnership with the local church, is integral to school life. It offers the school community a range of opportunities for deep reflection and prayer.
- The inclusive curriculum, rooted in the school's Christian vision, affirms the dignity and worth of every individual. Thoughtfully designed to reflect and celebrate diversity, it enables pupils to see themselves represented while fostering respect, empathy and understanding of others.

Development Points

- Extend and embed the implementation of the new RE curriculum to all year groups. This is to deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding of how religious and non-religious worldviews shape and influence people's lives.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision, rooted in the biblical story of the road to Emmaus, is fundamental to life at Powell's. Expressed as 'talk, learn and grow on our journey together', it is at the heart of the school's work. The imagery of the Emmaus Road serves as a unifying thread, guiding the community as they journey together through school life. Leaders clearly articulate how the vision informs their strategic planning and pursuit of innovation and excellence. For example, substantial investment in inclusion and approaches to pastoral care ensures that pupils thrive both personally and academically. Dedicated and enthusiastic governors know the school forensically well. They are rightly proud of the school's significant achievements and maintain a regular and effective presence. The impact of the vision is a core aspect of their comprehensive monitoring and evaluation. This ensures governors support and challenge the school effectively. Exceptionally strong partnerships with the local church and diocese enrich the daily experience of pupils and adults.

Vision and Curriculum

The school's vision and values give direction for a highly engaging curriculum that ignites a love of learning. This is seen in pupils' enthusiasm for their lessons and work. The curriculum is expertly planned, highly inclusive and adapted to meet the needs of pupils. Leaders wisely ensure the curriculum is shaped by the local context. For example, extensive diversity and equality opportunities are intentionally mapped and taught across subjects. This deepens pupils' learning. A remarkable range of extra-curricular activities provide pupils with plentiful opportunities to develop their unique gifts and talents. The vision guides leaders' approach to inclusion and support for pupils considered to be vulnerable and disadvantaged. They have access to a broad range of specialist provision. Leaders ensure staff receive expert training. The range of provision ensures pupils flourish and experience life to the full. Pupils and adults have a deep, shared understanding of spirituality. Leaders diligently map out opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum. These are enhanced by a range of planned and spontaneous opportunities for prayer and deep reflection.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is fundamental to the spiritual life of Powell's. Anchored in Christian values, which support the outworking of the vision, it provides a sense of belonging and shared purpose. Because of this, it is a cherished part of each day. Coming together with staff and peers fosters a strong sense of community. They sing beautifully and participate eagerly. Elected spiritual leaders carry out their role with maturity. Their popular weekly extended worship allows pupils to express their own spirituality in a variety of ways. In this supportive space, pupils also consider the impact of local, national or global events. Dedicated areas in classrooms and 'Our garden of spirituality' in the school grounds provide valued space for personal prayer. Thoughtfully planned 'spiritual pathways' creatively extend these opportunities. This range of provision ensures pupils and staff find moments of peace, calm, reverence and reflection. A strong and highly effective partnership with local clergy and the wider church community enriches the school's worship life. Pupils and adults look forward to regular clergy worship and church visits throughout the year. Pupils actively support deanery projects and lead annual prayer days. This combination of approaches has a profound impact on pupils and adults' spiritual flourishing.

Vision and School Culture

Leaders and staff live out the Christian vision with clear purpose and dedication. Each pupil benefits from having five trusted adults. This means pupils are known personally and provision is tailored to meet their individual needs. This ensures they can thrive. Pupils are noticeably polite and support each other lovingly. Their behaviour in lessons and around the school is impressive. Mental health and wellbeing are nurtured effectively through the curriculum. The 'well-being wonders' group works successfully to support their peers. For example, the lunchtime chatty café and worry well activities develop pupils' confidence and resilience. A commendable level and breadth of training enable staff to provide comprehensive specialist support for pupils and families. Parents



and carers appreciate the school's bespoke provision. This has a significant positive impact on the wellbeing of families. They feel seen, heard and nurtured. Leaders' collaborative approach and encouragement ensure staff feel highly valued, trusted and supported. An extensive range of development opportunities ensures staff flourish professionally.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Rooted in the vision to 'talk, learn and grow on our journey together', pupils gain a deep understanding of justice and responsibility. Through an impressive range of leadership roles, including eco-warriors, school council and community ambassadors, they are empowered to help others. The annual 'make a change week' enables pupils to learn how a range of inspirational people challenge injustice. This leads to action at a local level. For example, pupils write to politicians to raise awareness of the endangered water vole and reduce local pesticide use. They speak maturely and convincingly about standing up for what they believe is right. Themes of fairness and justice are woven throughout the curriculum. Examples include learning about 'why is fairtrade fair?' and the human impact of tourism. Pupils and adults benefit from a link with a school in Ghana. This varied provision deepens their understanding of global and ethical issues. The success of the school's work is recognised by the achievement of the national Global Neighbours Award.

Religious Education

RE at Powell's is strong and led with enthusiasm and pride. It is a high priority for leaders and teachers. The curriculum is sequenced appropriately, ensuring progression of knowledge and skills over time. Leaders work meticulously to continually refine its effectiveness. Long-standing engagement with expert diocesan guidance and training, in addition to local networks, supports this work well. Ongoing work to implement a revised curriculum is successful. Pupils enjoy RE and are motivated to learn because well-designed tasks encourage curiosity. They especially like the 'I wonder' element of their lessons. Pupils develop a deep understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. This includes awareness of Christianity as a diverse, global faith. Pupils explore and reflect on their own perspectives and learn to evaluate the opinions of others. RE lessons provide a space for pupils to ask questions confidently and discuss their understanding freely. For example, they delight in being able to 'think like a theologian'. Pupils are rightly proud of their impressive work. RE books reflect the challenging and vibrant curriculum.

RE teaching is highly effective. Leaders ensure consistency through detailed guidance and clear expectations. Teachers appreciate this support. RE is a key strand of school development planning, acknowledging its importance as a core subject. Pupils make strong progress because of the well-structured curriculum. Teachers use assessment and feedback skilfully to ensure any gaps in pupils' knowledge are addressed quickly. A comprehensive approach to monitoring and evaluation checks how well pupils achieve over time. Governors from the church and community committee provide welcome support and challenge. This ensures teaching and learning continue to develop.

Information

Address	Gloucester Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 2DJ		
Date	25 June 2026	URN	115681
Type of school	Voluntary aided	No. of pupils	424
Diocese	Gloucester		
Executive Headteacher	Helen Cooper		
Chair of Governors	Caryn Putney		
Inspector	Christian McGuinness		