

**Truro Diocese – School Visit  
Summary Visit Note**

<b>Academy:</b> St Issey CE	<b>Head of School:</b> Chris Parham
<b>Interim Director of Schools –</b> Mark Lees	<b>Chair of Governors:</b> Rev. Katie Kirby
<b>RE Leader plus email:</b> Lou Roseveare	<b>Clerk to Governors plus email:</b>
<b>Date of Visit:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	<b>Diocese rag-rating:</b> Amber

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>OFSTED: 3 (2016)</b>	<b>SIAMS: 3 (March 2017)</b>	<b>School SE: 2</b>
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<b>Purpose of the visit</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To offer support, guidance and advice to leaders of Church of England schools.</li> <li>To monitor and evaluate the school's effectiveness against the CE vision and values: <b>wisdom, knowledge and skills; hope and aspiration; community and living well together; educating for dignity and respect.</b></li> <li>To review the school's Christian distinctiveness and the impact that this has on teaching, learning and pupil outcomes over time.</li> <li>To evaluate the school's readiness for SIAMS and OFSTED inspections and offer support through our annual review and evaluation.</li> </ul>

<b>Next steps discussed during the last visit</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure the local governance of the school and provide training for this new LGB on roles, responsibilities and hold leaders to account for the performance of the school.</li> <li>As soon as possible, ensure that the senior leadership of the school is confirmed following a maternity leave.</li> <li>Through quality first teaching and focused intervention, support the large group of pupils who have joined the school and who are falling behind expectations.</li> <li>Following training on the updated SIAMS framework, it would be useful to revisit the school's Christian vision and ensure that it is underpinned by biblical teaching. Involving the LGB and staff in this would be wise.</li> <li>Worship would benefit from development by setting up a pupil led worship team and establishing a pattern of 3 or 4 Eucharist services during the year (Harvest? Easter? Leavers?)</li> <li>Keep up the very good work on all fronts!</li> </ul>

<b>Summary of discussions and observations</b>
<p>Very good progress has been made against the next steps identified during the last diocese visit. Thank you for this! A clear Christian vision has been developed that is underpinned by the school's four values. School developments are now underpinned by these values and the pupils can talk about them with confidence. The local rector has supported school leaders with the theology that underpins the vision and values. Leaders are currently looking at a biblical text to work alongside the vision of <b>'Be strong and courageous.'</b> (Joshua 1:9)</p> <p><b>Discussion with the head of school and executive headteacher:</b> The head of school was very well prepared for the diocese visit and produced a useful summary briefing and SIAMS document. Thank you for this!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school has 55 pupils on roll, and this has continued to grow during the year. A large proportion of this group have special educational needs. The school is organised into three classes: Early Years, Years 1,2 and 3, Years 4,5 and 6.</li> <li>The interim head of school has now been appointed permanently at the school as the previous HOS has returned to Trevithick Primary following her maternity leave. He teaches in Year 1,2 and 3 for two days per week.</li> <li>Leaders and teachers are still dealing with the legacy of weaker teaching in previous years and the influx of pupils from other schools with mixed ability levels. Hence, Years 5 and 6 have been identified as well below what might be expected of them. The mobility factor has also been high due to the pupils coming over from Padstow. This is at 43% in the current Year 2 cohort.</li> <li>The head of school has worked with staff to develop a strong Christian vision underpinned by the values of: <b>Wisdom</b> - (Ecclesiastes 2:26). <b>Hope</b> - (Isaiah 40:21). <b>Dignity</b> - (Mark 12:29-31) <b>Community</b> - (Romans 12:5)</li> </ul>

- Spring term 2019 assessment data paints a mixed picture for the school. It is healthy in the younger years of the school. Cohorts are small at St Issey.

Year	Reading on track	Reading progress	Writing on track	Writing progress	Maths on track	Maths progress
1 (5)	60	-0.33	60	-0.67	60	0
2 (7)	71	-0.43	57	-0.43	71	-0.29
3 (10)	78	0.5	67	-0.5	67	0.17
4 (8)	29	-0.43	43	-0.71	43	-0.57
5 (9)	50	-0.71	33	-0.86	50	-0.86
6 (11)	73	NA	45	NA	55	NA

- Pupils have arrived at St Issey CE with high key stage 1 outcomes that the school does not recognise. Outcomes in 2019 at the end of key stage 2 look challenging for the school despite the considerable work that has been achieved with the Year 6 cohort. Just under half of the cohort joined the school in 2018, Most new pupils are pupil premium and SEN.
- Attendance is at 95% with four pupils who are classed as persistent absentees.
- The local governing body has continued to strengthen and grown in number. Father Stephen the local rector has now joined the LGB. At times relationships at clergy level have been tense. The LGB has been without a clerk and this has not helped the lack of clarity over governor's roles and responsibilities. At times, governors can become too operational and lack the strategic overview that they need to have. Leaders have this in hand.
- Through collective worship, the school focuses on one of their values each half term. The school has introduced the format of gathering, engaging, responding and sending out for each collective worship.
- The school has recently launched a '**Courageous Advocates**' Club where the pupils use Amnesty International Juniors to find out about oppressed individuals around the world. This club is led by pupils who feedback to the school through collective worship time.
- Leaders are pleased with the progress made against the school improvement priorities. These have been evaluated and include the SIAMs priorities.
- The school sporting teams have had recent successes, and this is partly due to the leadership of a new sport's coach.

#### Collective Worship:

- Upon arrival, the pupils were engaged in a collective worship led by one of the class teachers. The theme focused on the work of the Toy Bank.
- The pupils engaged well with the theme and made some excellent links with the school values when thinking about supporting the Year 6 pupils during their SATs week. There was a generosity of spirit and kindness displayed by many pupils during this discussion.
- The pupils confidently said the lord's prayer, reflecting well on the learning from this worship.

#### Learning walk around the school with the head of school:

- Despite this being close to the end of the day, the pupils were focused and hard working in both national curriculum classes. The Year 6 pupils were working on some mathematics revision in preparation for the Year 6 SATs week.
- The learning environment is superb at St Issey. It is attractive, interactive and represents the wider curriculum well. The school is blessed with excellent outside facilities.
- The early years is a real strength of this school. Pupils make good progress in the early years and are well prepared for the transitions into Year 1.

#### Strategic improvement priorities (September 2018)

- Strengthening the governance of the school once the new LGB has been established. Ensure the board is clear as to its role and responsibilities and that it provides training for members.
- Ensure leadership transitions are well managed during a period of change with a leader returning from maternity leave.
- Ensuring the impact on pupils' progress on staff absence is minimised with forthcoming maternity leaves etc.
- Continue to support and challenge pupils to close gaps in learning from the legacy of poorer teaching in past years.
- In key stage 1 and 2 improve writing attainment and bring in line with the national average.
- Ensure the early years GLD is in line with the national average, (it exceeded the national average for 2016 and 17).

### Next steps discussed

**Leaders are aware that they will need to continue to support the Years 4, 5 and 6 cohorts to reach their full potentials.**

**They have had some serious learning gaps that teachers are endeavouring to fill.**

- In collective worship, light a candle to signal the beginning of worship and extinguish this to close it. Involve the pupils more as a worship team in planning and leading worship. (Antony CE has a great junior worship team).
- Discuss with your local rector the concept of celebrating a Eucharist twice per year, say at Advent and Easter?
- Involve the pupils in a prayer week that links with the work of your courageous advocates. Hold a competition to write a school prayer and then ensure this is learned by all.
- Find a relevant bible story/parable to underpin the school vision – **'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go'**.

**Date of next visit if appropriate** to be arranged if required.