

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDIES 2021-2022

VAT and ODST Schools –Wantage area School Chaplaincy Development Lead - Rachel Woods

SCP Core vision and strategy strands: Chaplaincy Presence, Staff and Pupil-led Chaplaincy development, Core vision enrichment, creative approaches and resources for nurturing spirituality and wellbeing, support of school leaders with SIAMS related development.



CASE Study 1 WANTAGE CE PRIMARY (VAT)

Wantage Church of England Primary School converted to academy status on 1 October 2013 as a founder member of the Vale Academy Trust. The school is much larger than the average-sized primary school. There are two classes in each year group in Key Stages 1 and 2. In the early years, there are two full-time Reception classes and a part-time Nursery, providing morning and afternoon sessions. Most pupils are of White British heritage. The proportion of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs is below average. The proportion of pupils supported by the pupil premium is well below average. This is additional government funding provided, in this school, to support pupils entitled to free school meals. The school meets the government floor standard which sets the minimum expectation of pupils' attainment and progress in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Year 6.

CORE VISION AND VALUES

Learning for Life

'Life in Abundance' - John 10:10

Our vision is 'Learning for Life' where everyone learns, is inspired, flourishes, and enjoys life in all its fullness; in a community of love, respect, hope, forgiveness, courage and thankfulness.

ENRICHMENT FOCUS

SCPL contribution is driven by [SIAMS inspection 2015](#) following identified 'areas for development' (SIAMS inspection report):

- 'Leaders to establish more formal monitoring of the vision so that they fully understand its impact on all pupils and adults. SIAMS inspection 2021.
SCPL offer: Core vision engagement and monitoring via whole school creative reflection initiative
- 'Enhance worship by increasing pupils' role in planning and leading so that worship is more engaging and inspiring to all members of the school community. SIAMS inspection 2021.
SCPL offer: Baseline audit re spirituality and capacity building through training staff and pupil in leading reflection (inc staff and pupil-led Chaplaincy team)
- 'Broaden opportunities for pupils to engage in social action and to actively challenge injustice so that they are inspired to make a difference in the world in which they live'. SIAMS inspection 2021. **Courageous advocacy – Global Neighbours Accreditation scheme** (being planned for Sept 2022)
- **Chaplaincy presence and support, including for SIAMS inspection**
- **Jointly led Space Makers training for school staff**

TIME INVESTED

1 day per week September to July 2021

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Initial meeting - Listening and Connecting

SCPL had initial meeting with HT Andy Browne to discuss the school's SIP and SIAMS priorities from previous inspection (SIAMS 2015) See 'enrichment focus' above with SIAMS priorities and related SCPL initiatives.

SCPL shared vision and collaborative approach of SCP to support these endeavours which are designed to enable opportunities for development of sustainable primary chaplaincy initiatives through resourcing staff and pupils, with the ongoing partnership of the local church, BeSpace and OTB initiatives.

SCP Leadership and Strategy Agreed with HT

SCPL's contributed the following:

1. Spirituality policy and examples of good practice – HT wrote distinct spirituality policy to complement CW policy and practises. [See Spirituality Policy here](#)
2. Spirituality baseline audit using a 'spirituality survey' which HT adapted, circulated throughout school community and collated results. Outcome contributed to SIAMS portfolio and forward planning. [See Wantage CE Spirituality survey here](#)
3. Recommended Space Makers – contemplative toolkit training opportunity for HT, staff and local clergy. HT booked a place for himself alongside SCPL and also booked whole staff training which SCPL jointly led in June 2022 with ODBE School Chaplaincy Adviser.
4. Options for whole school core vision creative engagement initiatives e.g. Good Shepherd/Psalm 23 pilgrimage integrating Space Makers Ignatian exercises in the school grounds, that could also enable monitoring of stakeholder engagement. HT inspired but felt steps needed to be put in place first e.g. whole school assembly on Good Shepherd theme and Space Makers staff training.
5. SIAMS inspection announced late Nov 2021. SCPL's weekly focus prior to inspection became supporting pre inspection preparations and contributing on the day itself.
6. Project managed whole school core vision (theological and spiritual) enrichment project – altar, lectern, abundant life crosses displays for public areas of the school – making vision visible and engaging all.
7. Supported HT in considering most effective approach to engaging as a school community with Global neighbours initiative to address the courageous advocacy strand of SIAMS and developing a pupil leadership team integral to this.

Core vision engagement – 'Life in Abundance' altar, lectern decoration project

- Nov 2021 post SIAMS inspection HT offered school altar and lectern as focus for a whole school core vision enrichment project with Y5's.
- Dec 2021 SCPL drafted project plan for HT to consider, which was accepted for Jan 22 implementation. [See core vision project resource here](#)
- SCPL copied the SS Peter and Paul clergy into communications which yielded enthusiasm for supporting the project.
- Jan 2022 SCPL wrote and shared an initial reflection on the core vision 'Life in abundance' John 10:10 as a Class collective worship resource for each class teacher to facilitate with pupils. Pupils were invited to decorate their cross inspired by their interpretation of the scripture and in response to the reflection questions.
- Feb 2022 Y5 pupils assisted SCPL with tessellating the decorated crosses and working out best ways to decorate the altar and lectern.
- March 2022 SCPL had to decorate the altar and lectern without pupils because was not child-friendly paint (needed to be durable) Crosses applied in sequences of R to Y6 on all sides to evidence progressive understanding of core vision theology and spirituality across the Key stages. **See images below**
- April and May 2022 Remaining crosses were used to create large 'cross of crosses' display in school colours red on white for reception glass brick windows, so that the cross could be seen from both sides, and also on Library corridor window. SLT contributed to thinking on this. **See images below**
- June 2022 SCPL recommended that pupils' written reflections about their cross decoration be added to the cross displays to evidence their engagement with core vision. SCPL created a reflection template for pupils to write their reflections on their core vision crosses to accompany the large cross of crosses in the entrance hall and library area. Taken together – the individual crosses and written reflections could contribute to SLT monitoring of core vision engagement theologically and spiritually.

Next Steps:

- **Courageous Advocacy – Global Neighbours initiative and pupil led Chaplaincy team**

This is the HT's next priority. SCPL and HT had an initial conversation and looked into the [Christian Aid Global Neighbours initiative](#) and possible approaches to be taken. HT's hope is to start work on the Silver Award re the

accreditation as they likely tick all the boxes for the Bronze award already. HT will draw up his own vision document as a first priority.

June 2022 At the HT's invitation the SCPL contributed briefing on the Global Neighbours initiative to the planning of the volunteer run BeSpace at SS Peter and Paul June 22. SCPL also offered to help host the event and was invited to lead the mini service in the church at the end of one session.

OUTCOMES GALLERY



IMPACT ASSESSMENT STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

HT & SLT

Strand 1 "Playground break and lunchtime presence has been well received by pupils and staff. SCPL is considered a member of the school community by pupils and staff."

Strand 2 "Models for pupil-led chaplaincy team development are useful e.g. how this could inform the development of collective worship and pastoral teams as part of student leadership. Informative conversations about Courageous Advocacy project 'Global Neighbours' initiative involving a group of pupil leaders".

Strand 3 "Decorated crosses on the altar and lectern, are now a centrepiece for collective worship. The altar and cross of crosses make visible who we are as a school, and having been created by collaborative work they celebrate the character and values of our school community. They inspire conversations about core vision, values and worship from all school community stakeholders."

"Space Makers training for HT and whole staff has been a worthwhile investment, now planning roll out for September"

Strand 4 "Opened up conversations about 'spirituality' and what it means to us, helped us to unpick out thinking and articulate this prior to SIAMS, in writing a distinct spirituality policy and collaboratively planning initiatives."

"Altar and crosses core vision enrichment project helped all pupils reflect theologically and spiritually upon our core vision and give creative expression to their individual thoughts and connections."

"Helped HT reflect upon core aspects how we nurture spiritual development across the school and to articulate this more effectively and make related conversations about spirituality more powerful."

"Helped strategically to make our SIAMS inspection successful and having SCPL involved with the inspection was very helpful. Contributed to inspector's interviews and supported staff practically."

Pupils

Y4

"The crosses make the altar colourful."

The project helps the school understand how God makes our lives and the world."

"Each child had a chance to say what they thought about 'Life in abundance."

"I like the red and white together. The red could be Jesus's blood as well as our school colour."

"Putting the candle on the altar makes it special for assemblies."

Y5

"The whole school made crosses and they were stuck on the altar in the hall, on the window in the office and near the library. It was fun to do some art but also to draw your thoughts. Seeing the crosses in the hall makes me happier and its good because it reminds you that God is always watching you."

"I enjoyed decorating my cross – it made me think about when Jesus died."

"You could draw what you believe and say what you think."

"Everyone's was going to be displayed."

"If we are waiting in the corridor, for example going to lunch or PE, we would see the crosses and have a think about how Jesus died to save us, and how God is always watching over us."

"The messages is that Jesus died for us to live".

"The altar shows that we are a Christian school"

"The altar reminds us that Jesus is a sacrifice"

"It makes me feel that we really care for Jesus, that we've made something that celebrates him and that we love him".

Clergy

"The SCP presence has helped the school to build spiritual literacy and growth into their core vision and values".

"The new opportunities have introduced children to a life of faith and helped them to understand faith-led vocation as valid alongside careers and money-making".

"The initiatives have helped the school to develop its spiritual, theological understanding and expression of its core vision"