



St. Mark's C.E. Primary School

Talbot Village, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH10 4JA

Headteacher: Andrew Bright

Loving God – Serving others – Flourishing together

RESPECT – ASPIRE – REJOICE

“Encourage one another and build each other up.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Annual General Meeting 15 January 2026

Headteacher Report

September 2024 – December 2025

Since our last AGM, the school has achieved some notable successes and continued to develop.

SIAMS:

We had been awaiting our Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS) under the new framework (we were last inspected in 2018) and use support from Salisbury Diocese to prepare for inspection.

We are delighted by our SIAMS outcome and are still rejoicing in this. The school has been judged as ***living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.***

Full report is available [here](#). Some summary highlights are:

Vision and Values Embedded

The school's vision and values are intrinsic to its work, understood by staff, pupils, and parents, and effectively guide actions and decision-making.

Strong Sense of Togetherness and Wellbeing

There is a tangible sense of community and mutual support among pupils and adults, with wellbeing and mental health given high priority.

Effective Support for SEND and Vulnerable Pupils

Early identification and continuous monitoring ensure pupils with SEND and vulnerabilities flourish academically and personally.

Strong Spiritual Development and Collective Worship

Spiritual development is woven throughout the curriculum and collective worship, with engaging and varied worship experiences that enhance pupils' spiritual growth.

High-Quality Religious Education

RE teaching is strong and engaging, supported by high-quality resources and professional development, fostering enthusiasm and good understanding among pupils.

Quotes on Strengths in Collective Worship, Vision, and Values

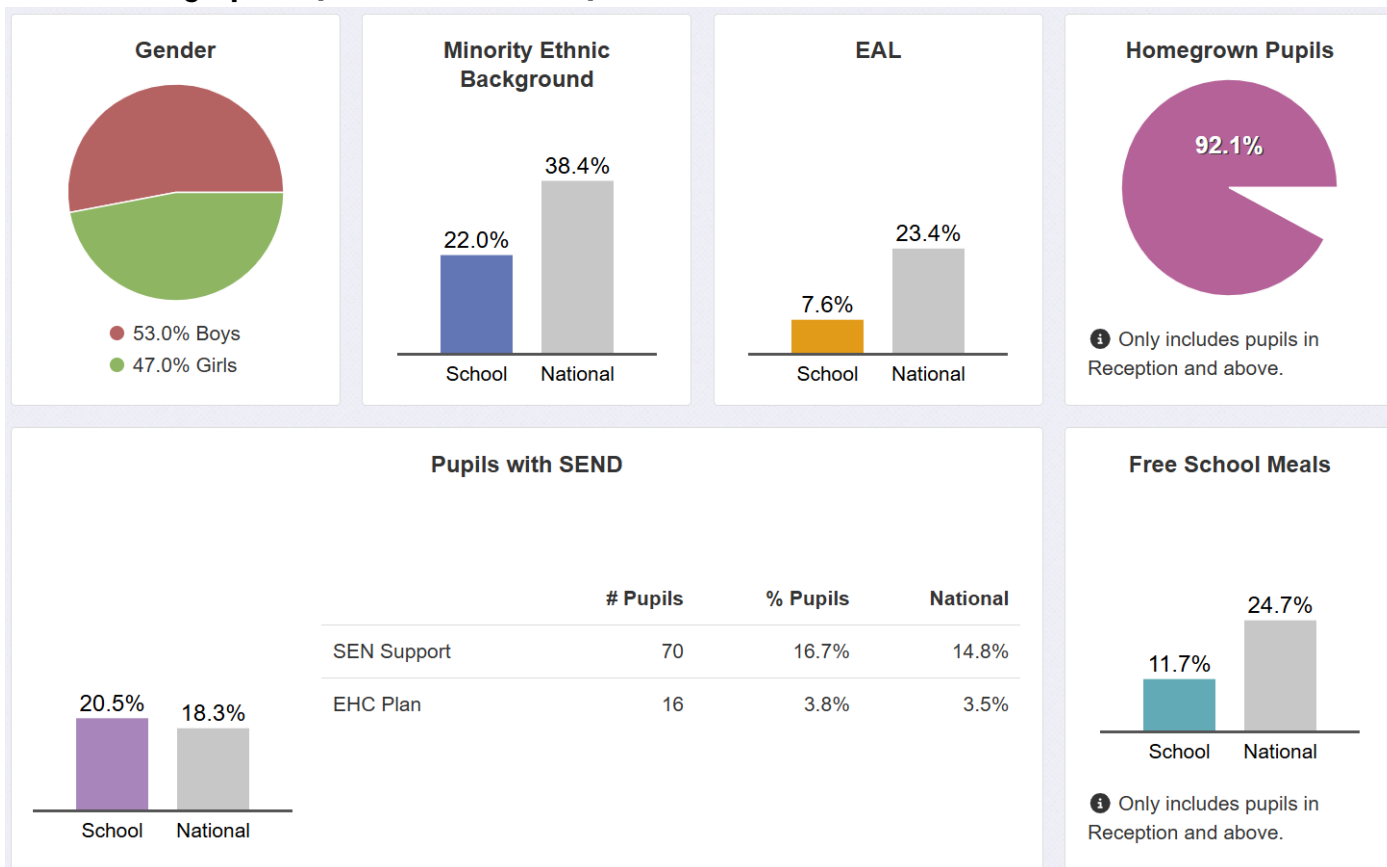
- **Collective Worship:**

"Pupils and adults enjoy coming together for times of worship. They thrive as a result of the different types of collective worship, which reinforce the core values and develop spirituality."

- **Vision and Values:**

"The vision and values are intrinsic to the school. They direct its work and are understood by staff, children and parents."

School demographics (2024-25; 419 on roll):



SEND support and provision and suspensions

We are continuing to see an increase in SEND need. This is putting additional pressure on school systems, personnel and resources.

17 out of 23 days lost to suspensions in 2024/25 are accounted for by EHCP pupils, pupils at SEND Support level account for 5.5 days, leaving just 0.5 days (1 event) for one pupil without SEND needs.

Our percentage of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan has increased from 2.9% in December 2024, to 3.8% for the full academic year 24/25, and 4.8% at December 2025. We now have 20 children with EHC plans. We have to pay the first £6,000 of each plan out of our notional SEND budget, so for 25/26 we will be spending 73.4% of our notional SEND just on this, leaving only £43,464 to support 70 SEN Support children.

We continue to work with BST and BCP to support and improve the system.

Attendance summary:

Summary of 419 Pupils (All (from 2024-2025))			
Attendance percentage		15-18 days missed	19+ days missed
School	95.5%	School 23	33
National	94.8%		
Local Authority	95.1%		

Attainment and Outcomes

Outcomes in EYFS, phonics and end of KS2 remained above national in 2024/25.

EYFS	Year 1 Phonics	Year 6 [Expected]
Good level of development	At the required standard	Reading, writing & maths combined
School 70%	School 85%	School 63%
National 68.5% (+1.5%)	National 80% (+5%)	National 62% (+1%)

The Year 6 cohort included 5 children with EHCPs and 14 with SEN Support (32% of the cohort). Significant progress was achieved across Year 6, bringing the cohort from a combined expected of 33% at the end of Year 5, to 63% in Year 6. This was partly due to strategic deployment of senior staff to support a third group for English and Maths, as well as the hard work and focus of the children (and parents), and dedication of the teaching and support staff team. 63% represents fantastic progress and outcomes for these children.

School Funding and Admissions

Funding levels continue to be a concern for schools across BCP, with a £150k shortfall in the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2026/27, which BCP are consulting schools on options to recoup this. Presently, the impact looks to be a maximum of £807 for us, but for some schools, models show them losing £25k.

We are grateful for the support of the Talbot Village Trust. They have historically given annual financial support to the school around £30k to support the site costs and other areas. They have changed the nature of the support they give going forward and we did not receive any grants in 2024/25 from TVT. I have worked closely with our Business Manager and Caroline from TVT, to submit a 3 year plan to support the work of our pastoral team. I am pleased to report that they have approved the plan and have awarded an annual grant of £26,285 (2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28). Grateful thanks to TVT for this support.

We are also grateful for the hard work and support of our School & Parents' Association, who continue to fundraise and support school projects. A total of £21K was donated in 2024/25; a large proportion of this was made up from a £9K contribution to replace classroom Smart Boards, and £7K for Curriculum.

We have been extremely cautious over spending and have worked hard to secure additional funding for pupils with additional needs, to support the staffing necessary to deliver their provisions. We have had to fund the purchase and installation of 3 new gas boilers, which were installed over the summer. This cost £50k. Though careful management of resources, we were able to end the year 2024/25 with a surplus (£77,869), which boosted our reserves back to their target limit.

We also worked with the previous Head to secure the release of funds which were inaccessible in an old, dormant Barclays account. Although the amount of £25,886.62 was shown in the audited accounts document, there was a risk that they would need to be written off if the money could not be moved to our active Lloyds account. These funds were received in December 2025. We are now looking at savings and investment opportunities to make best use of our reserves.

Some schools are being impacted by the lower birth rates which are coming through and affecting EYFS cohorts over the next few years. We have continued to run tours for prospective starters and this have again received positive feedback. We have had some turbulence with places this year in EYFS but are currently at 59 pupils, with another starting next week. With a Year 3 space hopefully filled after a tour this week, it will bring us up to our full PAN of 420 across the school.

Fire damage update

We have been unable to teach swimming this year. After many weeks of delays, repairs began in Summer 2025. We aim to have the pool operational again around Easter 2026. Last year, we hired Talbot Primary's pool to allow swimming teaching in 2024/25 for year 4 and 5.

BST & the future

Headteachers continue to work well together, facilitated by Jim Williams, who has continued to support and challenge us as our School Improvement Partner.

Regular meetings now take place within several groups: Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers, School Business Managers, SENCOs, and a Teaching and Learning group.

We will continue to keep an open mind regarding MAT options, with the interests of St Mark's pupils at the centre of decision-making, honouring the legacy of the Talbot sisters.

I continue to feel immense pride in our school community and in our pupils, who are ambassadors. Our achievements in SIAMS are a true testament to the living out of our Vision & values across our school community.

I want to express my thanks to the staff and governors for their dedication and support, as well as to the parents for their ongoing encouragement of their children and commitment to supporting the school's efforts.

Andrew Bright – 7.1.26

