

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church Church of England Primary School (VC)

Vision

Our Christ Church community is underpinned by a strong shared ethos of high expectations, enthusiasm for challenge and our unique Christian values. Our values are the foundation of our engaging, balanced curriculum which enables all children to flourish. Our strong links with our Church and community help to build resilient learners, well equipped to contribute to society.

Our Values: Respect, Care, Responsibility, Reflective, Resourceful, Resilient, Risk-taking, Relationships

At Christ Church we value ourselves, each other and the environment through caring, respecting and taking responsibility.

Christ Church 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.

Strengths

- The Christian vision is rooted in the Bible and drives the work of the school at all levels. Committed leaders, school staff and governors, use the vision to guide them in their decisions. Consequently, pupils and staff are able to flourish.
- The school's vision is lived out practically through its associated values and is reinforced through inspirational collective worship.
- Leaders have created a culture of respect, care and responsibility. The wellbeing of the whole community is a priority. This culture is exemplified by positive interactions throughout the school environment.
- Strong leadership of Religious Education (RE) ensures that the curriculum meets the needs of the pupils and supports teachers. Subsequently pupils enjoy and value their learning in RE.
- Pupils are empowered to promote change and value the opportunities to do this. Therefore, they are living out the school's Christian vision and contributing to society.

Development Points

- Develop a secure understanding of the shared language for spirituality so that the spiritual growth of adults and pupils can be enhanced.



Inspection Findings

Christ Church Church of England Primary School is a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive school. The deeply embedded Christian vision is lived out daily in the life of the school. The vision is underpinned by the life and teachings of Jesus. The pupils and staff know the Bible well and reflect on stories to identify the Christian values they have adopted. These are then developed in the way they respect, care and take responsibility for all they do. Staff are servant leaders who prioritise the needs and growth of the pupils. Pupils value the support and care they receive. Consequently, they behave with kindness towards each other. Families recognise the importance of living out these values and share how they impact beyond the school day. Parents engage in projects to develop the school grounds, support trips and share in worship. This is a community living well together, enabling flourishing.

The vision drives the work of the highly committed leaders. Governors know the school well and are dedicated to ensuring the best for everyone. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the vision and values guarantees they are at the heart of school life. Innovative leaders ensure there is a broad curriculum on offer to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding. Staff make sure it is motivating and engaging. This results in pupils who are curious and keen to explore the 'big questions' they are posed. Bold decisions by governors following detailed research by leaders has ensured support is available on many levels. Specialised agencies have been bought into, which enable families to access provision that would have taken time to access otherwise. They have enabled the inclusion leader to be focused on supporting staff, pupils and families across the school day. A dedicated learning support assistant is in place to develop reading. By helping leaders to provide these areas of support, governors are encouraging pupils and staff to flourish. The diocese has delivered training for spirituality and subject leaders are identifying areas across the curriculum which promote spiritual growth. There are many opportunities throughout the day for reflection. Pupils use journals regularly to document how they are feeling about work, relationships or activities. The shared language of spirituality is being developed but not yet consistent across the school.

Engaging collective worship is invitational and inspirational. It is a time of reflection, evaluating stories and identifying the Christian values of the school. Pupils speak with confidence when sharing their thoughts. All pupils are encouraged to lead worship, including the youngest, which they do confidently. Pupils from the worship team regularly evaluate practice and feedback to staff on areas to improve. They have asked for more worship to be held outside, and staff are working to enable this. The school has a strong partnership with the local church. Worship, held at the school and church, is supported and enjoyed by parents and community. As a result, parents and community members are engaged in the school's vision and values and experience its impact. This adds to the spiritual flourishing of the pupils. As part of their commitment to working with the school, Christ Church have started a choir with the pupils during lunchtimes. The choir sing at local events and once a month at a Sunday church service. This is attended by the families of the choir. Consequently this close working relationship enriches the experiences of the school and the pupils.

The school's Christian vision ensures that staff and pupils at Christ Church are treated well and supported to flourish. Pupils articulate how the stories from the Bible exemplify the Christian values they live out. They explain the risk-taking of David, the resilience of Daniel and how they should care for God's creation. Staff, families and visitors look out for pupils demonstrating the values and reward them with tokens. Pupils went out to local businesses and explained the values to them, so they too are included in rewarding pupils.



Staff wellbeing and mental health are prioritised by leaders. School practices reflect this with support for staff and protected time for development. Staff value the care that is shown towards them, and which enables them to flourish. Parents value the care given to their children. Those pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are effectively supported in the classroom and beyond. Staff ensure that pupils receive the provision that enables them to access the curriculum and achieve well. Attendance is high as leaders recognise that pupils are safeguarded when present, so work hard with families to achieve this.

RE at Christ Church has high priority and is a strength of the school. Strong leadership has developed the curriculum and supported staff to access knowledge. Regular monitoring ensures that RE is relevant, well resourced and effective. A well-sequenced curriculum deepens pupils' understanding of a range of religions. This is because they are supported to explore concepts in depth. There are regular visits to places of worship, including the Faith Trail in Derby. Visitors are welcomed into the school and work with pupils and staff to explain their lived-out faiths. Pupils gain an appreciation of the differences within Christian practices due to the school's close links with Christ Church, Wade Street Church and the Cathedral. These real-life opportunities enrich pupils' experiences enabling them to speak with confidence about diverse worldviews. They are reflective about their understanding of having a faith.

Pupils recognise the positive contribution that they can make to those around them in their school and beyond. They recognise Jesus as a role model standing up for the vulnerable. They are kind within school and to the wider community. Speaking with clear understanding of how they should treat each one another, pupils show respect. They take on a variety of leadership roles and encourage each other to join in. Those on the school council and junior leadership team are keen to acknowledge that everyone has a voice at the school. As a result, pupils are able to identify injustice and are encouraged to speak out for the needs of others. They engage in a variety of projects which enrich the community. These include litter picking, around school and on trips, and engaging with the local care home. They respond to the needs of local and national charities. Staff listen to the ideas of pupils and empower them to act. Consequently, pupils are able to take responsibility and initiate change.

Information

Address	Christchurch Lane, Lichfield, WS13 8AY		
Date	29 November 2024	URN	124257
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	426
Diocese	Diocese of Lichfield		
Headteacher	Julie Pilmore		
Chair of Governors	Claire Shaw		
Inspector	Elizabeth Seymour		