

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hanbury Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School

Address School Road, Hanbury, Bromsgrove, United Kingdom, B60 4BS

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Overall grade

Excellent

The impact of collective worship

Excellent

School's vision

Flourishing through love and nurture

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 7

Key findings

- The school is a haven of Christian love and the school's vision is a life-changing reality. Relationships throughout the school reflect the depth of love made known through the life and teachings of Jesus. Consequently, everyone is nurtured to be the best unique individual that they can be.
- The school's innovative learning environment and curriculum are designed so that every pupil can flourish.
- Governors provide exceptionally effective encouragement and practical support. They draw together the school, community and church and show aspiration along with concern for all pupils and adults. The school's vision is remarkably embedded as committed and appreciated staff are equipped to serve pupils and their families.
- Worship is planned thoughtfully to inspire and motivate the school community to love and serve. The school's Christian vision and values are rooted meaningfully in Bible accounts. Individuals reflect deeply and lives are transformed.
- Religious education (RE) of the highest quality is a significant strength of this calm, reflective community. The pupils' understanding of world faiths and beliefs is significantly strengthened through highly effective teaching within an embedded culture of curiosity and questioning.

Areas for development

- Continue to create new ways of expressing Christian love so that those beyond the school community can feel and understand what makes the school so special.
- Develop ways of worshipping so that pupils can appreciate and enjoy an even wider breadth of worship from different Christian traditions.
- Extend experiences for pupils to strengthen their understanding of religion and worldviews to prepare them more fully for life in our diverse society.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Love is the heartbeat of this school elevating everyone's experience of life and learning. The deeply considered Christian vision is evident as unconditional love in action. It motivates every aspect of school life and transforms lives. There is an openness and honesty in relationships throughout the school which is liberating. Everyone is free to be themselves whilst respecting the worth of others. Consequently, an atmosphere of harmonious calm pervades.

Pupils flourish in this culture of patient endeavour that cultivates their personal, spiritual and academic development. They become confident and independent learners who can express their own thoughts and feelings, knowing that their voice will be honoured. The environment is safe, pupils take risks and are prepared to make mistakes. The impact on successful learning is remarkable. In RE even the youngest children display an exceptionally high level of oral fluency along with skills of listening, processing and questioning. Pupil behaviour is exemplary. The school establishes in pupils an internal 'moral compass' alongside personal resilience. The practices of forgiveness and reconciliation are aspects of Christian love which are evident in relationships. Pupils are clear that as God's children they are all valued. Staff are passionate about wanting every child to achieve and celebrate every forward step. They understand and care for every pupil and know just how much to challenge and support pupils in their learning. Love builds perseverance which results in deep learning. Love and high-quality teaching go hand in hand. All staff feel valued personally and professionally. They are trusted to use their unique talents and gifts to provide innovative learning opportunities for pupils. A wonderful climate exists which results in uniquely creative and inspirational teaching and learning.

The school invests in high quality training for staff including courses with the Diocese of Worcester and national Church of England school leadership training. School governors are fastidious in ensuring that love is at the heart of all school matters. There is a great sense of joy and fulfilment among staff who are motivated to nurture every child. During the pandemic they went the 'second mile' to respond to the specific needs of pupils and families. The school delights to include and welcome everyone into the Hanbury family. Forged by both love and grief relationships are mutually beneficial within school and outwardly to the church and community. A beautiful garden of remembrance for a precious teacher is important for pupils and staff. This is a school that is about life in all its fullness, that laughs, sings, learns and cries together. Pupils convey a sincere empathy for others that they are eager to translate into positive acts of kindness. Their actions have resulted in projects supported by the local community such as improving wheelchair access in school for a fellow pupil who became unwell. The school's foundation governors and clergy give generously of their time and energy to ensure that the school's vision and values are maintained and vibrant. They were strategic in the appointment of the present headteacher who they knew would build on the firm foundations of love and learning already established.

The school takes full advantage of its beautiful rural setting to enhance the curriculum. Pupils are taught about nurture in practical ways. Growth in nature is an age-appropriate image which helps pupils to understand about tender loving care and responsibility. Pupils are passionate about being protectors of God's world and readily express their strong views with intent to make a difference as global citizens. The headteacher has researched school environments that are conducive to learning and positive mental health. He has inspired staff to create innovative areas which bring nature indoors and engender a sense of peace. Spiritual spaces throughout the school enable pupils to be calm and express their feelings through stillness and prayer. The school's work on learning environments is being shared enthusiastically for the benefit of other local schools.

A carefully considered curriculum recognises the need for pupils to be 'forward looking' in preparation for a bigger world. There are plans to enrich the pupils' experiences of different faiths and beliefs through RE which have not yet impacted fully on their knowledge and understanding. Class teachers employ teaching and learning techniques of the highest quality to make RE lessons interactive and inspirational. Thoughtful and flexible planning allows pupils to make connections between the school's vision and a growing understanding of the Christian faith. Pupils discuss issues together and explore connections such as those between God and love. The freedom to think things through and express their learning in different ways is appreciated by the children. Consequently, the RE lesson is a highlight of the week.

A deeply committed school leader plans for RE and collective worship across the school. She plans for coherence between the school's vision, associated Christian values of respect, endurance, trust forgiveness, kindness and friendship, and Bible accounts. This reinforces the pupils' understanding. The school's foundation governors contribute

to long-term planning for collective worship. They liaise with members of the community who come into school for 'Open the Book' worship times. Bible stories are acted out and pupils enjoy these times so much that they can remember them in detail. The whole school community sings with great enthusiasm and energising joy pervades. As they are secure and confident, most pupils are willing to lead the whole school in spontaneous prayerful responses to worship. Reflection times are built into worship as well as time back in the classroom for discussions. Therefore, worship becomes relevant for everyone and impacts on spiritual and moral growth. Pupils enjoy leading and being part of worship with the Funky Bible Gang having a particular responsibility. Families share in the school's love and joy when the whole school community worships together in the church. Engaging activities based on a Christian value are provided on the weekly newsletter enabling families to nurture and embed the school's Christian vision at home.

Christian love as defined in the Bible by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 is the hallmark of Hanbury Church of England First School. It has become the natural and powerful way that everyone lives and learns. It draws the community together and prepares pupils to go out into the world with confidence and compassion. This is a remarkable place of Christian service. Seeds of kindness, forgiveness, humility, patience, honesty, peace, perseverance and hope are being nurtured to have a life-long impact.

Contextual information about the school			
Date of inspection	15/03/2022	URN	116816
Date of previous inspection	06/03/2015		
School status	Voluntary Controlled	NOR	130
Name of MAT/Federation			
Diocese	Worcester		
Headteacher	Aaron McDonagh		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is in line with national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	The headteacher has been in post since September 2021.		
Inspector's name	Angela Daniel	No.	757