

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy</b>	
Address	Stretton Sugwas, Hereford, HR4 7AE
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
<p>Based on the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12: 12-31), we teach 'each bee plays a part in the hive'.</p> <p>To make it accessible for all stakeholders, we model:</p> <p>Beelong (we all have a part within a team),</p> <p>Beelieve (we all have valuable skills),</p> <p>Beehave (we all use these to help others).</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly effective leadership ensures the deeply rooted Christian vision unwaveringly drives every strategic decision. There is scope for this exceptional distinctively Christian school to enrich other church schools by sharing their expertise.</li> <li>• The innovative unique Christian curriculum sustains an extremely rich culture of creative thinking and thoughtful reflection. Consequently, the spiritual development of pupils and adults is deep and fulfilling.</li> <li>• The school's well established, nurturing culture enhances the positive wellbeing and good mental health of adults and pupils. The ethical leadership team, prioritise professional development and minimising workload as they watch over everyone with love and care.</li> <li>• Pupils plan, lead and evaluate worship enabling a profound theological understanding of the vision. Sharing the vision through worship has equipped pupils to be agents of change, in their relentless commitment to fight injustice.</li> <li>• Exemplary leadership of religious education (RE) ensures a richly inspiring curriculum. Pupils are critical thinkers who enthusiastically answer big questions, enabling them to demonstrate an excellent degree of religious literacy.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultivate opportunities for leaders including governors, to promote excellence by sharing their knowledge across other schools, enabling widespread flourishing.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

The palpable loving welcome of the extended family at Stretton Sugwas radiates warmth and friendship to all. It is immediately apparent that pupils and adults appreciate each school day. True to their deeply relevant Christian vision, this school is a place where everyone belongs. All partners consider themselves to have a part to play in the hive. The biblical theology and associated values of friendship, kindness, respect, peace, compassion and forgiveness permeate throughout. Leadership at all levels clearly explain the transformational impact of the Christian vision on this school's unique circumstances. The school is a beacon of peace, hope and resilience where love shines brightly. This results in creating a safe space where nurture and love ensure all adults and pupils flourish. The school's vision drives the deeply connected partnerships with the diocese, partner schools, national thinktanks and the British Council. These partnerships, enhance professional development opportunities. Consequently, staff have extremely high levels of skill and confidence. There is scope to share expertise more widely, so others benefit from the transformational impact of this aspirational practice.

Lives are changed through the courageous decisions leaders make. For example, recently developing nursery and pre-school provision to ensure an excellent Christian education from the very earliest opportunity. To guarantee pupils holistically flourish, the exemplary governance evaluates the impact of the Christian vision upon every aspect of school life. By taking a long-term strategic view of monitoring, governors ensure the impact of the Christian vision is sustainable.

The school's framework for flourishing ensures that learning is bespoke to the needs of the pupils. It enables all to respond to deep, meaningful questions. Christian values underpin the meticulous curriculum planning. It is relentlessly inclusive and adaptive, enabling all to thrive, including vulnerable pupils, the exceptionally able and those with additional needs. It supports all pupils to belong, believe in their talents and behave in a way that positively impacts on others. Built on innovative pupil leadership teams, learning fosters pupils' opinions, beliefs and understanding of social action. Opportunities abound for pupils to flourish in their global learning, equipping them to lead change. Pupils creatively raise awareness of issues. Pupils have a gritty determination to highlight unfairness, injustice and need. A green and white day focused attention on flooding in Pakistan. Introducing an annual global speech festival provides pupils with a platform for change.

Spiritual development is a golden thread running through all subjects, promoting critical thinking, personal reflection and growth. Class worship tables, the feelings jigsaw, reflection journals and forest school provide excellent opportunities for pupils to cherish the wonders of God's world. The ambitious framework for flourishing provides all with the ability to express spirituality. Consequently, adults and pupils can clearly articulate their interconnected experiences in the wider world and their deeply spiritual reflections.

Unconditional love and kindness prevail, to ensure every child is recognised for their own uniqueness. Big questions embracing difference are sensitively explored, pupils respect and celebrate the wonderful diversity that they are introduced to. Leaders are imaginative in their restorative approaches. Pupils appreciate the purpose of the seeds of change problem resolution tree and as a result, their resilience is inherent. Friendship is embraced between older and younger pupils. Disputes are rare but when they do transpire, pupils supported by well-established peer mediators understand how to solve their disagreements. Parents say they feel privileged to be part of this excellent church school community. They clearly articulate how the school's Christian values impact on all aspects of school life, including the



pupils' exemplary behaviour.

True to their vision of working as one body, leaders empower adults and pupils to help others. One staff member expressed how the compassionate leadership ensures everybody knows they are important in their own special way. This demonstrates how valued and appreciated all feel as a result of their uniqueness. Dedicated staff tirelessly play their part in establishing the school's highly valued caring pastoral approach. Adults listen with respect and dignity encouraging pupils to talk about their feelings, enhancing the positive wellbeing of pupils. The strength of the vision is such that bold decisions are made by adults against injustice on behalf of the vulnerable. Therefore, enabling the flourishing of all.

Pupils and adults wholeheartedly relish coming together as one during collective worship, to experience the love of Christ. It is testament to the power of the vision, impacting deeply on the whole school community. Dynamic, inspirational and highly inclusive collective worship brings the richness of the Anglican tradition to life through jubilant singing and drama. Three bell rings welcome in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Planning is driven through pupils' rigorous evaluation of the quality of worship. The Bible is central to worship. It offers a key to living a good life. One pupil said, 'Jesus' message is like a virus that spreads, if people see good things, they will do good'. Deeply meaningful reflection and prayer enrich families at school and at home. During COVID related home learning, parents highly valued virtual worship as providing them with much needed connectivity and comfort. All staff members, visitors and the local vicar joyously share in the leadership of worship as do the enthusiastic, confident WOW team members. Behaviour is exemplary in collective worship as at all other times. Prayer and reflection offering opportunities for spiritual growth is greatly appreciated by all. Church and school worship are entwined, including pupils delighting in regularly leading Sunday services. This extends their understanding of the fundamental importance of Communion to Christian worship.

RE teaching and learning is skilfully developed by the expertise of the accomplished RE leader. Pupils are exceptionally enthusiastic about the subject and eloquently discuss how they are encouraged to debate big questions. Whilst meeting the Statement of Entitlement and the Hereford agreed syllabus, the innovative RE curriculum is bespoke and relevant to pupils. As a result, pupils demonstrate impressive religious literacy, including when they discuss a range of religions and worldviews. Robust monitoring and assessment linking to future planning, ensure excellent outcomes for pupils learning and flourishing in RE.

The richly relevant Christian vision runs through every fibre of the school. It is a place where love is strikingly normal and encompasses all. The school community are united in their belief that the vision is lived out daily. Every bee belongs to the school's extended hive, believing they are empowered to live life in all its fullness. Ultimately, the unique vision enables all to behave in a way that is truly transformational to the lives of others.



Information			
School	Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy	Inspection date	9 November 2022
URN	138055	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Hereford	Pupils on roll	200
Executive Headteacher	Alex Davies		
Chair of Governors	Richard Griffiths		
Inspector	Beverley Roberts	No.	2122