

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

<b>St Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Kenilworth</b>	
Address	The Blundells, Kenilworth, CV8 2PE
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>'Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:13-14.</p> <p>Every child is valued as unique, supported and empowered by our Christian ethos to aim high, be courageous, show love and kindness; to flourish by: loving learning; caring for each other, their neighbours and communities; valuing themselves; becoming respectful, independent, active citizens in local, national, global communities; persevering, showing aspiration.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The carefully developed and universally embraced Christian vision, enables leaders, including governors, to provide opportunities for all to succeed. Systems to evaluate the impact of the vision and associated values are less developed.</li> <li>• Embracing the Christian vision, initiatives nurturing relationships and the social, emotional and mental wellbeing of adults and pupils are impressive. Consequently, all are empowered to flourish.</li> <li>• There are recent, rich and varied, opportunities for all pupils to develop their spiritual and cultural awareness. However, occasions within the planned curriculum for pupils to experience moments of awe and wonder are not yet embedded.</li> <li>• Thoughtfully planned, engaging collective worship is inclusive and inspiring. Using the Bible, music drama, stillness and prayer, it invites deep reflection and opportunities for personal faith responses.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE), imaginatively, comprehensively planned and engagingly taught, ensures pupils learn about Christianity, major world religions and worldviews. However, too many pupils do not appreciate how to improve their work.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate a strategic approach to evaluating the impact of the Christian vision in all its breadth. This is so that evaluation informs the continued development of this nurturing Church school.</li> <li>• Embed within the planned curriculum, opportunities for pupils to experience moments of wonderment so that, they are empowered in their spiritual growth.</li> <li>• Develop more robust assessment within RE so that pupils understand how to make progress in their learning.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

Encouraged and inspired by the inclusive Christian vision, leaders, including governors, care deeply and proactively for the school community. Collaboratively determined, the Christian vision and values, ensure all appreciate the distinctiveness of this good Church school. As a result, the vision to ‘...stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all you do be done in love’ (I Corinthians 16:13) is increasingly impactful. It is embedded throughout policy and practice. Systems to monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision are not sufficiently formalised. Therefore, the potential to prioritise planning and ensure the continued flourishing of all are not fully realised. Leaders ensure that the wellbeing of pupils and adults is at the heart of decision making. This leads to a culture of confidence, commitment and personal resilience. Adults are supported and encouraged to be aspirational in their professional life, including as Church school leaders. This results in personal fulfilment ensuring that adults aim high and consequently, pupils thrive. Partnerships between the school and its families are increasingly strong, nurturing and affirming. Parents appreciate the school’s welcoming and listening approach that focuses on resolving concerns. Equally, partnerships with the diocese and local church are highly effective and supportive.

Shaped by the embedded Christian vision, the rich, creative, ambitious curriculum and programme of exciting additional activities offer opportunities to all. Individuals can explore their potential, identify their talents, and seek to be aspirational. All pupils, including those who are vulnerable or have additional learning or personal needs are empowered to succeed. Adults have a sensitive and informed understanding of spiritual flourishing. The many beautiful displays celebrate exciting, enriching experiences to which pupils have responded with wonderment. A programme of outdoor learning is encouraging pupils in their appreciation and stewardship of nature and the wonder of creation. However, wider opportunities for pupils to explore and experience awe and wonder through their planned learning are underdeveloped.

Pupils embrace the school’s vision. They are proud of demonstrating the values of love, care, responsibility, respect and kindness. Equally, parents appreciate the impact of the carefully chosen values in shaping their children’s moral decisions. There are significant, varied, highly regarded and impactful opportunities for pupils to build their character and to develop leadership. Prefects, eco-committee members, school councillors, prayer and reflection, anti-bullying and digital ambassadors model the impact of the school’s vision and values. They highlight the ownership, responsibility and investment that pupils have in their school, local and wider communities. Pupils demonstrate knowledgeable concern for the health of the planet that many consider as God’s creation. There is a shared understanding of inequality and injustice and how to challenge it. Appreciating the concept of standing up for others and social action, the school generously supports local, national and international causes. Frequently, pupils decide which ones and how. Families appreciate the assistance they received throughout the COVID pandemic. Telephone calls, personal visits, small gifts and gestures of kindness supported families in feeling safe and cared for.

Personal and collective wellbeing is central to this nurturing, inclusive and welcoming community. Leaders prioritise pupils’ mental, emotional and social health. Consequently, initiatives to identify wellbeing needs, and to support pupils to be happy, confident and able to flourish, are impressive. Pupils acquire skills to assess and regulate their emotions so that they can feel calm, safe and happier. Parents acknowledged their children applying these same approaches at home to great effect. Wellbeing journals enable pupils from Year 2 upwards to record their feelings. Accordingly, they become resilient, confident, aspirational and enthusiastic for their futures. Leaders and pupils by generously sharing the practicalities



and impact of wellbeing programmes with other schools, extend their transformational effect beyond the St Nicholas' community. Pupils enjoy attending school and behave well because they invest in their friendships and challenging learning. They can recognise bullying and know how to establish, and sustain, safe, enriching relationships, because adults encourage their sense of self-worth. This includes staying safe online. Pupils understand how to disagree respectfully and to challenge unacceptable behaviours and views. The impact of the Christian vision and associated values can be clearly seen in their understanding of forgiveness and fresh starts.

St Nicholas' is a community rich in experience and tradition. Adults, pupils and their families are valued as unique individuals created in God's image. This ensures that all are treated respectfully. All have a valued voice and no one is invisible in this inclusive community. Those joining the school, including from abroad, are quickly embraced by the genuine love and kindness that underpins relationships. One pupil commented on the happiness he feels because his peers show interest in, and respect for, his heritage and culture. Careful curriculum choices encourage pupils' appreciation of the diversity of religion, race, culture and life choices in modern Britain.

Reflecting the Christian vision, collective worship binds and nourishes the spiritual wellbeing of this thoughtful community. A joyful heartbeat to the school day, it enables all, without compulsion, to enjoy moments of stillness, contemplation and prayer. Drama, music, and a rich exploration of the Bible encourages all in appreciating the presence of Jesus in the lives of believers. Pupils can relate the example of Jesus to desirable behaviour and as inspiring people to act courageously. They understand the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Careful planning ensures that worship celebrates Christian seasons, feasts and festivals both in school and in church. Evaluation of worship, inclusive of adults and pupils, though informal, effectively shapes decisions and developments. Leaders of worship, including pupils and church members, ensure that worship is accessible to all. Prayer and reflection journals, and well cared for reflection spaces, encourage pupils in deepening their personal spirituality.

The subject coordinator ensures a challenging, appropriate programme of learning in RE. Using the locally agreed syllabus and the national Understanding Christianity resource leads to a broad, balanced curriculum. Assessment is underdeveloped. Therefore, pupils do not always receive adequate guidance to reflect upon and improve their work. Pupils enjoy learning about Christianity, world religions and worldviews. Teachers actively encourage pupils to ask, and respond to, big questions recognising RE as a safe place to share opinions. Pupils use religious terms and express concepts confidently, respectfully and accurately. They show empathy for the impact of religion in peoples' lives. Learning is enriched by an exciting programme of visits including to churches, mosques and gurdwaras. This fosters pupils' appreciation and knowledge of the diversity of life and religion in modern Britain. It improves cultural awareness and enables pupils of differing faiths to share and celebrate their heritage.



Information			
School	St Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Kenilworth	Inspection date	6 February 2023
URN	125661	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Coventry	Pupils on roll	419
Headteacher	Sarah Rayson		
Chair of Governors	Sue Draper		
Inspector	Fiona Ashton	No.	860