

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church Church of England Primary School, Chesterfield	
Address	Tapton View Road, Chesterfield, S41 7JS
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>Learning and growing in faith, hope and love. 1 Corinthians 13</p> <p>Our ambitions are high –</p> <p>we want every child to grow up to be proud of themselves; proud of each other, and strive to make the world a better place, as we learn and grow in faith, hope and love.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian vision conscientiously influences school development and focuses upon nurturing every pupil. Leadership, with able support from the staff team, focus upon solutions and are tireless in championing the more vulnerable. • The vision enables the curriculum to be engaging. Leadership ensure that it provides breadth and balance, but the school is yet to have a shared understanding of spirituality. • Pupils understand how the vision enables them to thrive. They have confidence to express their ideas, they live well together and seek solutions for the wellbeing of others. Positive learning behaviours are evident, enabling a strong sense of community throughout the whole school. • The school's distinctive Christian vision directs collective worship. It is invitational and eagerly enjoyed by pupils and adults alike. However, whilst older pupils are engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship not all pupils are involved. Not all leaders of worship access regular on-going training. • Religious education (RE) enables the pupils' interests to flourish. The vision promotes discussion of the pupils' understanding of world faiths and they delight in considering 'big questions'.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a shared understanding of spirituality so that pupils are able to explore and articulate spiritual issues. • Extend opportunities for all pupils to lead collective worship to enhance personal growth. • Facilitate regular training for all members of staff who lead collective worship.

Inspection findings

The school's leaders hold themselves to account by meticulously reviewing their decision making process against the school's vision. They consistently consider how their actions enable pupils to learn and grow in faith, hope and love. Strong Christian values are promoted and inspire pupils and staff to be the best that they can be. There is a culture of high expectations with focused personalised support. Every person in this community is cared for, everyone matters. Leaders consider that their principal role is to enable others to thrive. The school works tirelessly to establish an inclusive ethos. The school's strong church links with Holy Trinity and Christ Church strengthens this community. Clergy are very visible, being frequent and regular visitors in school. Leaders and staff celebrate a deep sense of everyone belonging to a school family.

The school's vision directs staff in their aspirations for the pupils. Displays clearly explain the vision's intention with examples of how it has been implemented. Consequently the whole community is knowledgeable about how the vision impacts upon the daily life of the school.

Leaders actively seek to ensure that everyone flourishes by consistently living the vision in their practice. When the need arises, leaders respond swiftly to facilitate support for pupils and their families. Pupils trust their vulnerability with staff and know that any emerging challenge will be recognised and addressed. The strength of Christian love, recognising those in this community with need, is lived with dignity and respect for all.

Staff speak gratefully of how the school is a mutually supportive family. They reflect that this is empowered by a respectful awareness of each other's challenges. Staff appreciate that the school vision helps them develop both professionally and personally. They are quick to recognise that leaders listen and value their opinions. Adults reflect that school leaders have faith in everybody's ability to achieve. There is a deep sense of teamwork amongst staff colleagues. They are intrinsically motivated to become the best that they can be.

In their strategic decision-making governors always reflect upon the school's vision. They actively monitor the school's progress and base their decisions upon evidence and analysis. Governors visit the school regularly to see the impact of their decisions. They challenge themselves at the conclusion of their meetings to review the quality of their deliberations. Governors ensure that the vision directs their actions. They affirm that this enables them to hold the school and themselves to account.

Through the school's vision, leaders introduce pupils to well-chosen inspirational role models. The school seeks to inspire pupils through developing knowledge and understanding of how others live fulfilling lives. Pupils reflect upon how faith overcomes adversity, where hope creates better futures and how love sustains others.

Pupils are mindful of how to build caring and thoughtful relationships. They are kind to each other and they are able to resolve issues independently, even though those rarely arise. They are able to explain how they make positive choices. Pupils build friendships based upon mutual respect and a caring awareness of the needs of others. The vision and the promotion of Christian values provides the foundation for the school's behaviour policy. This is further enhanced through pupils being elected as values ambassadors. This consistently raises the profile of Christian values for on-going reflection and action for all pupils and staff.

Leaders regularly review the quality and impact of the curriculum. Staff carefully plan for each pupil's progression, including the more vulnerable. They are quick to adapt provision to ensure that each pupil receives the most appropriate encouragement. The delivery of the curriculum is inclusive. When additional focused support is required then every effort is made

for interventions to be class based. Pupils enjoy their learning. They have confidence in sharing their knowledge and understanding when they discuss their work. However, the current lack of a shared understanding of spirituality limits how pupils and adults articulate their insights.

The school is proactive in reaching out to nurture those pupils who are in need of additional reassurance and confidence. When pupils first arrive at school staff are very sensitive to each pupil's particular needs. These pupils are gently and sensitively introduced to their new school. Staff are always mindful to find ways to help each pupil feel secure and safe. Christ Church is a community where caring for the wellbeing of others is second nature. Together they build and maintain relationships. They are mindful of the needs of others, deeply caring for the wellbeing of each member of the community.

The vision encourages pupils and staff to actively respond to social need within the wider community. The pupils engage with national fund raising occasions and learn about the difference they can support through targeted social action. Pupils care about each other and are sensitive in their encouragement when their friends are experiencing personally challenging times. They reflect and recognise how they can act to restore faith, hope and love for each other.

Collective worship is a focal point each day for reflection, prayer and coming together as a school family. It is vibrant, invitational and deeply enjoyed. Pupils and adults sing together enthusiastically. The school's vision and the range of Christian values are integrated into this precious time that is enjoyed by all. However, whilst older pupils already take some ownership of collective worship this opportunity does not extend to all. While collective worship is well led not all leaders of worship have regular access to on-going training.

The RE curriculum is well designed to enable progression and is effectively monitored. Building upon the school's vision to learn and grow, it engages pupils' curiosity. The pupils are knowledgeable and delight in explaining their learning. Resources such as 'Understanding Christianity' develop pupils' religious literacy. Pupils are aware of Christianity as a world faith and are very interested in developing and widening their understanding of world faiths and views. RE lessons provide opportunity for pupils to begin to reflect on their own convictions. Through their collaboration with the diocese, the school makes good use of external expertise. This has particularly influenced how the RE curriculum has evolved so well.



Information			
School	Christ Church Church of England Primary School, Chesterfield	Inspection date	31 January 2023
URN	143180	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Derby	Pupils on roll	172
MAT/Federation	Derby Diocesan Academy Trust		
Executive headteacher	Susan Davies-Beckett		
Chair of Governors	Clare Bingham		
Inspector	Mark Millinson	No.	2121