

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Brown Edge St Anne's Church of England Primary School	
Address	St Anne's Vale, Brown Edge, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 8TA
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	Excellent

School's vision
<p>"Together with God, making learning a life-long friend."</p> <p>Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6</p> <p>We aspire to be guided in all that we do by our inclusive Christian ethos. We are enthusiastic about life-long learning and share wisdom in serving each other and our world. All are encouraged to live lives of hope and aspiration, inspired through acquiring new skills and attributes. Dignity and respect are at the heart of our school.</p> <p>Core values: Honesty, Respect, Kindness, Perseverance, Faith & Community</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision's roots, that every child is uniquely created and all are valued, drives the actions of the school. This leads to a strong holistic approach where no child is left behind. • The strong partnership with the local church demonstrates Jesus' love and grace and is transforming the community of Brown Edge. • Collective worship is inspirational and encourages pupils to be change makers. However, their experiences of Christianity as a global faith, including different traditions of Christian worship, are limited. • Opportunities for spiritual development take place across the curriculum. These are supported by reflective spaces around the school. However, monitoring and evaluation systems are not in place to evaluate their impact. • The effective Religious Education (RE) curriculum enables pupils to learn about Christianity and a range of world religions. However, their knowledge of Christianity as a global faith is limited.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pupils' understanding of Christian practice and worship traditions from the worldwide church. • Monitor and evaluate opportunities for spiritual development.

Inspection findings

St Anne's is a school where the vision is lived out through daily interactions between members of its community. The leadership's belief in the innate value of every individual drives them to treat all with dignity. Decisions are made in line with this, to ensure that no child is left behind. As a result of this holistic approach, pupils and adults are flourishing. They are equipped to serve the world and the local community. The impact of the Christian vision and values is such that families refer to them at home, regardless of their personal beliefs.

The creative and broad curriculum inspires pupils to love learning and to reach their full potential. Regular visits, visitors and specialist teaching are used to increase their experiences. These include an evolving forest school, sporting and music activities such as playing in rock bands. This creates high aspirations for all including the most vulnerable and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Throughout the curriculum, pupils are challenged to reflect upon big questions. These support staff to nurture pupils' spiritual development. Across the school, prayer is seen as an extension of their reflections to 'connect with God'. They regularly ask their own big questions, both in school and at home. Parents are amazed by the depth of these questions and the wisdom their children share through them. Reflection areas around the school further support their spirituality; however, pupils are not always consistently accessing them. Systems for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the opportunities for spiritual development are not embedded.

The inclusive heart of the school extends to the adults who work there. The staff know that they are valued and respected as individuals. They are nurtured by leaders to be the best that they can be. Their mental health and well being is prioritised. This has led to a committed staff team who demonstrate God's love in their care for each other. This includes pupils and their families, particularly in times of tragedy. The vision equips them all to journey together through difficult times and to emerge as a stronger, loving family.

The school has a strong partnership with St Anne's Church and Connect2Church, the school-based worshipping community. The impact of this paired work extends beyond supporting RE and worship. For example, helping families through 'hugs in a box'. The outworking of the vision has transformed this ministry between church and school. It drives them to love, know and serve the community. This has led to the planning and funding of a new community hub. Through visits from churches of other denominations, pupils learn how Christians express the school's shared values in their workplaces. Pupils learn about how to make a difference by visiting the food bank at Swanbank Methodist Church. As a result, they act as courageous advocates for positive change.

Leaders, including governors, regularly seek pupils' views to evaluate the impact of the vision. As a result, the school continually improves its provision. Pupils are valued as equal pilgrims in their journey together. The school's strong emphasis on democracy equips pupils to take an active role in being change makers. This is seen in the work of the eco, student and worship councils. Pupils learn about local and global issues, such as climate change, and are equipped to make a difference. For example, through running recycling campaigns with the village. This is facilitated by the effective use of Picture News in worship sessions. They raise awareness of local issues by meeting with their MP and councillors to discuss affordable housing and disabled access. Through a letter-writing project, pupils have reconnected older members of the village. Then with the church's help, run social events for them. As one pupil commented, 'When we learn about problems we get inspired and when

we are inspired we want to pass that on to others'. Thus, they learn to serve each other and the world. This is also demonstrated by former pupils taking on responsibilities in their new schools.

Daily acts of collective worship instil a sense of belonging which is appreciated by pupils and staff. Pupils from different faith backgrounds serve together on the worship council to help "pass on the vision to the younger children". As a result of their input, they now lead Friday worship in classrooms in addition to the celebration assembly. This bold decision demonstrates the importance of meaningful worship to the life of the school. Pupils are inspired to deeply reflect on the messages of the Bible stories shared and the songs they sing. They are equipped to write and say their own prayers in response to the worship themes. Effective teaching leads to a strong understanding of the Trinity, with one pupil explaining how "you can't see Jesus or God now, but we know that the Holy Spirit is with us in our worship". Pupils experience and understand the church year by celebrating festivals both in school and in the church. The worship council lead these, providing them with opportunities to grow spiritually and develop leadership skills. Links to the worldwide church are developing. For example, by learning about how Christians in Pakistan worship using drumming. However, their understanding of the beliefs and practices of the worldwide church are not embedded. Parents value the role of worship in the school, commenting on how their children have grown in faith and spirituality as a result. As a result, more families are involved and attend Messy Church.

An effective RE curriculum enables pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of world faiths and world views. They learn about lived experiences of faith through regular visits to places of worship and from visitors to the school. Pupils value their lessons for helping them to understand and respect others. Class floor books enable pupils to give their honest opinions and respectfully share them. They know that they can live well in disagreement as a result. Effective feedback and marking enables pupils to know how well they are learning and their next steps. As a result, they develop their skills and understanding, including completing greater-depth challenges. Monitoring and evaluation have been used effectively to identify gaps in subject knowledge. These have been addressed by creating additional RE days. SEND and vulnerable pupils flourish as a result of well-planned support. For example, by producing their own illustrated booklet about a topic. Staff are well supported by the confident RE lead.

Through the outworking of the vision pupils and staff are flourishing at St Anne's. They are nurtured to love learning and to respect each other for their uniqueness. They reflect deeply, take their responsibilities seriously and are equipped to serve and love the world.



Information			
School	Brown Edge St Anne's Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	12 June 2023
URN	124238	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	200
Headteacher	Edward Hobson		
Chair of Governors	Rachel Orbell		
Inspector	Mark Harrington	No.	2208