

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

<b>Cockshutt Church of England Primary School &amp; Nursery</b>	
Address	Shrewsbury Road, Cockshutt, Ellesmere, SY12 0JE
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
Our vision is to create an environment that allows children to develop confidence, independence, self-esteem and respect for ALL people. This will allow us to grow together in a love of learning which will last a lifetime and encourage one another to do better and aim higher than we ever thought possible. 1Thessalonians 5:11
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effective Christian vision impacts on all aspects of school life. Governors and leaders articulate its theological roots and use it to drive development in the whole school community.</li> <li>• The school embraces the importance of educating pupils to respect diversity and difference. Spirituality is built into the wider curriculum although not all pupils are able to express this with confidence.</li> <li>• Character development is a strength with a detailed programme of enrichment and wellbeing enabling pupils to flourish. Pupils live alongside each other with dignity and respect.</li> <li>• Collective worship is carefully planned and is both invitational and inclusive. Although pupils are participating in worship, the opportunities for them to plan and review are limited, restricting their involvement in spiritual leadership.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is taught through an engaging curriculum, enabling pupils to explore searching questions and debate respectfully. The recording of pupil's responses does not fully reflect their deep understanding.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the RE curriculum allows pupils the opportunity to record deeper responses that illustrate a full understanding.</li> <li>• Increase opportunities for pupil leadership skills to flourish. Provide greater involvement for them in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of class and whole school worship.</li> <li>• Create a clear definition of spirituality to be shared by all members of the school community.</li> </ul>

## Inspection findings

Cockshutt Primary school has a well developed and established Christian vision which impacts on all aspects of school life. The strong leadership of the school drives the vision forward. The school motto 'a quality education for ALL for life' is demonstrated through care and support for pupils in an inclusive environment. Governors and leaders have ensured that the theologically rooted vision motivates staff and pupils to build each other up in God's love. As a result, pupils are proud of their school and demonstrate confidence, independence and self-esteem and staff feel supported and cared for. This leads to all members of the school community flourishing together. Pupils know and understand the six Christian values (forgiveness, compassion, perseverance, respect, friendship and courage) and apply them in their work. Under the clear guidance of the headteacher, staff are also enabled to grow as future leaders who can sustain the long-term impact of the vision. Governors work closely with the school to maintain high standards. They often volunteer during the day as well as provide on-going self-evaluation of the school to ensure its effectiveness.

In designing a curriculum, the school began with its vision to develop the whole child for life. Staff talk with pride about planning opportunities that allow all pupils, including those with special educational needs and the most able, to flourish. Pupils thrive in experiences that explore big questions and enjoy debating global issues that widen their understanding of different cultures. Cross curricular links enable Bible stories to be explored during English writing tasks. Spirituality is addressed in the wider curriculum and opportunities are created to allow pupils to reflect on the meaning of deep issues explored. However, not all pupils and staff are confident in explaining the definition and meaning of spirituality.

Character development is a strength. Opportunities for presentations from visitors are planned to enrich ambition, creating hope and aspiration. This reflects the vision to 'aim higher than we ever thought possible'. The wellbeing of both staff and pupils is prioritised and schemes such as 'Rest Easy' and 'CHATT' enable pupils to share feelings together in classrooms and outdoor spaces. Pupils explain that this helps them to be calm and persevere through tough times. Through engagement in weekly acts of worship which look at global issues, pupils are inspired to act as courageous advocates. The organisation of fund raising activities makes a difference in their local community as well as demonstrating compassion for others globally. This was illustrated in pupil actions after an earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

In addressing the vision of 'encouraging others to do better', the school has a far reaching reward system. This motivates pupils to aim high as they work together. Times of celebration are used to share this success with parents. Behaviour is effectively managed in line with the vision. Pupils articulate the concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation with confidence. 'Pause and Pray' areas around the building remind pupils to value each other and show dignity and respect in their relationships. The school library contains rich texts that support an understanding of diversity. Establishing links with varied faith communities enables pupils to engage in discussions and have first-hand experiences of significant events. These opportunities allow pupils to flourish as they develop an understanding of different cultures.

The school has developed strong partnerships through involvement with the Mere's Edge federation and the local community. It engages positively with the local church, supporting the growth of Messy Church and in the celebration of festivals. The school and church came together

to plant trees in the churchyard and share memories after the death of the Queen. The school has a strong link with the Diocese of Lichfield and school leaders provide inspiring examples to share with other schools. Members of the Church have supported the school in its termly 'Journey Days'. These popular occasions often focus on the Christian calendar, with practical activities to inspire responses and prayer walks in the village. One example focused on Epiphany leading to improved pupil knowledge of Christianity as a global world faith. These events enable pupils to fully explore meaning as well as reflect on how faith can support them. As a result, the community exemplifies the vision as it grows together in learning.

Carefully planned collective worship provides a clear expression of the school vision. It is fully inclusive and invitational, allowing for reflection, stillness and action for those of faith or none. Music and story are used to inspire all participants. A school prayer, written by clergy and pupil leaders, reflects the school's vision. Staff receive training in leading class worship. As a result, they are able to support pupils in an appreciation of the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. Subsequently, pupils articulate the relevance of this teaching in the world today and through positive responses, demonstrate the importance of worship in their daily lives. Although pupils are regular, active participants, they are less involved in the planning and review of class and whole school worship. This restricts their opportunities for spiritual leadership.

Through an imaginative and sequenced curriculum, RE is given priority which promotes effective learning. Weekly lessons and additional activities give opportunities to read challenging religious literacy. Using Understanding Christianity and the local agreed syllabus, teachers deliver engaging and inspiring lessons. In line with the vision, pupils are encouraged to grow in confidence and independence through lively debate and expression. Lessons frequently allow pupils a safe space to share convictions and ask big questions. This allows them to apply the subject to their own lives. Pupils highly regard their experiences in lessons which enable them to understand the impact of Christianity on cultural heritage. Units of work explore a variety of faiths and worldviews. In building a school link with Muslim pupils, they have a clear appreciation of religious diversity and difference. Staff have received support in planning and teaching from the diocese and as a result have a secure knowledge of the subject. The recording of responses in lessons does not always reflect the deep understanding pupils have. However, this knowledge and understanding is expressed orally during exciting lessons.

Information			
School	Cockshutt Church of England Primary School & Nursery	Inspection date	24 March 2023
URN	123470	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	72
MAT/Federation	The Mere's Edge Federation		
Headteacher	Mandy Jones		
Chair of Governors	Elizabeth Edwards		
Inspector	Keith Farquhar	No.	2143