

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

| <b>St Barnabas Church of England VC Primary School, Worcester</b>  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Address  | Green Lane, Worcester, WR3 8NZ |
| 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>Inspire, Nurture and Achieve:</p> <p>We believe, as Jesus did, that in our happy, purposeful and welcoming Christian school and pre-school all people are valued, encouraged and cared for.</p> <p>'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'</p> <p>Matthew 19 v14</p>  |
| Key findings  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school's Christian vision, driven by 'Inspire, Nurture and Achieve', is absolutely central to its work. It is understood by all members of the community. The excellent practice that leads to this outcome is not currently shared beyond the school community.</li> <li>• All, including those who are vulnerable, flourish because they are given excellent support. This clearly demonstrates that the school's vision is lived out day-to-day.</li> <li>• Courageous advocacy is a strength at St Barnabas. Pupils care deeply about their world and act positively to be agents for change.</li> <li>• Collective worship is deeply inclusive, far-reaching and spiritually nourishing. It strongly reflects and promotes the school's Christian vision. Pupils are proud of the roles they have in leading collective worship and have clear plans of how to develop this going forward.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is well led and follows a well-planned, inspiring curriculum. Effective assessment ensures pupils are challenged effectively in their learning.</li> </ul> |
| Areas for development   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore how expertise at all levels can be shared with other schools, particularly Church schools. This is so the impact of the school's excellent practice in living its Christian vision is extended.</li> </ul>   |



## Inspection findings

St Barnabas is an excellent Church school, living out its distinctly Christian vision in every way. The vision completely drives all that the school does. The language and impact of 'Inspire, Nurture and Achieve', can be seen extensively around school. Everyone understands and takes ownership of the vision. They explain its importance to them and how it makes a difference to the community. The Christian values of friendship, justice, wisdom, forgiveness, perseverance and thankfulness underpin and enable the school's vision. Pupils can discuss these in a practical and meaningful way, helping them develop a deeper understanding of their place in the world. The school is highly effective in meeting the varying and often complex needs of each of its pupils. This is because the securely embedded vision empowers adults and pupils in their daily life. Pupils, parents and staff are proud that this is a school where nobody is left out or left behind. All staff know the pupils and parents well. Leaders articulate clearly the theology that underpins the vision of the school. Careful monitoring, evaluation and reflection ensures governors accurately understand the impact of the school's vision. This leads to new initiatives that enhance the wellbeing of this distinctly Christian school.

Planned and spontaneous opportunities for spirituality abound within the curriculum. Careful thought is given to structuring learning experiences to include spiritual development. Pupils value highly, and use effectively, reflective spaces within school. Silence and reflection have a high priority within worship. Staff explicitly nurture spiritual curiosity through challenging, thought-provoking questions. This enhances pupils' opportunities to explore their personal spirituality. Oracy is a key to learning. It is expertly woven into a culture of knowledge. Pupil achievement is high because engagement and resilience are exemplary, leading to pupils' social and academic achievement. Learners look beyond themselves, ask big questions and confidently contemplate difficult theological issues. This inspires them to challenge injustice realising that each person has a voice to use for good. Through this, pupils flourish mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Tailored learning is offered for all pupils, including vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Leaders, along with all school staff, encourage respect for difference and diversity. A pupil summed it up wonderfully, 'Be kind to everyone no matter how they look.'

Pupils at St Barnabas talk excitedly about how they want to be the best that they can be. They are given leadership opportunities from an early age. For example, pupils fully lead regular acts of collective worship, playground games and physical education (P.E.) sessions. The impact of the school's vision can be seen through pupils having a sense of hopefulness of others through the teachings of the Bible. Pupils actively challenge inequality and injustice, ensuring their voices are heard. They take action individually or in small groups. For example, some wrote letters to the Prime Minister regarding refugee concerns, earning them a Kindness in Education award. Another group presented at Worcester City Council, raising awareness of local environmental issues.

As a result of the Christian vision, leaders are unwavering in their determination to protect and support the mental health of everyone. Consequently, adults' and pupils' wellbeing is a priority and where needed, effective support is quickly given. Nurturing, considered support is offered in challenging times as well as for immediate need. Parents speak with appreciation about the school's support. Friendship is embraced between older and younger pupils. When incidents occur, pupils talk about the importance of forgiveness. One pupil summed it up well, 'if we can't forgive each other, we will have no friends left.'

Nurture is at the heart of what this wonderful, caring school provides. All members of the school community are supported, including those who are vulnerable. There are a number



of pupils who have need of a new start who find this a safe community. Leaders make bold decisions to meet these needs. For instance, carefully balancing the need to support pupils they already have alongside welcoming those who may be vulnerable. This approach enriches the school community, making everyone feel valued, encouraged and cared for. Building relationships is central to this, informed by Christian values, which raises pupils' self-esteem. Difference and diversity are explored through both the curriculum and collective worship. For example, pupils led worship around there being 'no outsiders' which explored and celebrated diversity, ensuring everyone is included.

As the heartbeat of the school, collective worship is an inspiring yet peaceful experience impacting on, and beyond, the school day. It is a particular area of expertise, being a powerful and exceptional time of each day. Worship ardently welcomes those of no religious faith and those who have a devout belief. Pupils have opportunities to take part in a variety of rich experiences. The Christian seasons, including Christmas and Easter, are joyous and memorable. The breadth of the Anglican tradition is demonstrated, including the Eucharist. Pupils have an age-appropriate understanding of the Christian belief of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They understand how reflection and prayer are important. A pupil described prayer as 'making them feel closer to God' and bringing them a real sense of inner peace and calm. Each act of worship is deliberately inclusive, invitational and appropriately biblical. Pupils consider it a privilege to lead worship. They are regularly involved in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship. Pupils take part in Open the Book and lead many of the worship services themselves, both in school and in church. One Year 5 pupil summed this up wonderfully, 'In a Christian school it's important we lead and are role models.'

RE has a high status and is very well taught and resourced throughout the school. Staff are excited by their pupils' high levels of religious literacy. Visitors are frequently impressed by pupils' confidence in explaining complicated religious issues. They comment on the high standard of interactions and discussion. The inspiring curriculum enables pupils to explore and develop an understanding of the importance of faith for believers. Pupils develop a strong comprehension of Christianity as a living, global faith. Using big questions, pupils critically explore and articulate complex themes. They explore different religions and world views. This enriches the supportive environment, allowing all pupils to flourish. It prepares them to be confident citizens in a multicultural Britain.

The wonderfully-relevant Christian vision is encompassed in every element of this excellent school. St Barnabas is a school that transforms lives. This is because inspiring leadership and the rich understanding of the vision unites everyone in their belief that everyone can inspire, nurture and achieve.



| Information           |   |                    |                      |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| School                | St Barnabas Church of England<br>VC Primary School, Worcester | Inspection<br>date | 22 May 2023          |
| URN                   | 116858  | VC/VA/<br>Academy  | Voluntary controlled |
| Diocese/District      | Worcester   | Pupils on<br>roll  | 408                  |
| Headteacher           | Sarah Hanson  |                    |                      |
| Chair of<br>Governors | Samantha Hulse  |                    |                      |
| Inspector             | David Dunn  | No.                | 2105                 |