

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

<b>St Matthew's Church of England Primary School, Normanton</b>	
Address	Mill Lane, Normanton-on-Trent, NG23 6RW
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
Together we will flourish and thrive, building on our Christian and local community for the good of all" (rooted in 'Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles.' Isaiah 40v.31).
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The executive headteacher, supported by all, has taken the school on a transformational journey. Innovative practice and bold decisions mean all flourish. For many children and their families the love, care and education they receive has been life changing.</li> <li>• Shaped by the Christian vision, the creative curriculum and range of wider opportunities provide rich learning experiences for all. Spiritual moments happen within school life but are not always intentionally planned across the curriculum.</li> <li>• Pupils are inspired to respect one another and accept each other's views. They enthusiastically support charitable causes, including commitments to global partnerships. Enabling pupils to act as agents of change is an area for further development.</li> <li>• Collective worship unites and inspires the entire school. The vision gives a powerful expression of the sense of togetherness. Opportunities for all pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship are developing.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) at St Matthew's is challenging, engaging and flows from the vision. Pupils explore their own and others' beliefs with genuine curiosity, respect and understanding.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that pupils and adults develop a shared language to talk about spiritual development so that all pupils are able to flourish more fully.</li> <li>• Broaden opportunities for the whole school community to be further inspired by the Christian vision. To act as bold campaigners, who stand up for the vulnerable and challenge injustice.</li> <li>• Extend pupils involvement and independence in leading, planning and evaluating collective worship to further enrich the worship life of the school.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

St Matthew's is a deeply caring and welcoming community that considers the needs of all pupils and adults. The shared Kite Federation school vision 'Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles' and school values are central to this. This is evident in the way the school leaders and staff find every opportunity for their community to 'soar'. School leaders have worked tirelessly to create an enriching and nurturing learning environment where pupils thrive from whatever their starting point. Beautiful and biblically inspired artwork, created by the pupils frame the walls. Calm, peaceful nooks encourage the pupils to read, reflect and pray.

The school has federated with another Church of England primary school. A third school is also supported by St Matthew's, expanding their nest and supporting flourishing. Governors explain that the vision weaves together the Kite Federation, with all soaring higher together. Governors stuck closely to the school's vision and continue to be guided by it in all strategic decisions and actions. Governor monitoring is effective. Through robust challenge and questioning they ensure the Christian character and vision of the school is maintained.

The school has built strong relationships with parents and the wider community by opening its doors and extending a warm welcome to all. This relationship has blossomed due to the practical support given by the school and community events. The vicar is a support to the staff and school families by being a visible presence in and around the school.

The school pastoral team, enabled by the headteacher, are focused on meeting the needs of all pupils. They feel called to be advocates for all those whose 'wings are clipped'. By putting in place preventative rather than reactive strategies, pupils flourish. They are upheld and nourished to fully embrace all the school provides.

Parents speak emotionally about the transformational impact the school has had on their children. They praise the dedicated and skilled staff team who enable each child to make progress in every area of their life. One parent said, 'This is the first time I have been listened to and our needs have been seen.'

Reflecting the school's vision, an ambitious and knowledge rich curriculum is inspiring pupils to think deeply. They can explore countries and cultures different to their own and meet people who have lived amazing lives. The wide range of trips, visits and experiences, give an empowering knowledge, curiosity and a love of learning. As a result all flourish. Forest school, paddle boarding and regular outdoor learning further provide opportunities for pupils to learn within and from nature. Pupils are trusted to risk manage how they use equipment in forest school and on the playground. This has developed both their independence and resilience.

Collective worship, forest school and RE celebrate and encourage moments of spirituality. Pupils and staff talk about the significance of these times to them. The school has an approach to spiritual development, but this is not fully developed or embedded throughout the whole curriculum.

Pupils behave well, have a positive attitude towards their learning and are fully supportive and respectful of each other. 'Soar on wings like eagles', is part of everyday language of the school. Everyone is encouraged to find and celebrate what makes them soar each day. Pupils spoke passionately about the importance of enabling others to soar by being kind, generous and loving. The school community gathers regularly to raise money for different charities, often having been inspired during worship. One pupil explained that 'sharing what we have with others is doing God's job on earth'. An example is the supporting of a pupil in



Kenya with the help of Children in Kenya (CHinK). Pupils fundraised with a whole school day of competition and games. The vision inspires pupils to be agents of change. However challenging situations of injustice locally and globally, are yet to be further explored as a community.

Collective worship brings life and inspiration into the school day and beyond. Joyous singing, dancing and drama make worship truly inclusive. Everyone knows how to respectfully behave, act and respond if they choose to join in with elements of worship or not. Pupils shared the joy collective worship brings. They were keen to describe biblical stories that had positively transformed their thinking, behaviour and attitudes. Across the week, a range of people lead worship, bringing with them a variety of styles. Collective worship leaders, a group of enthusiastic year 6 pupils, are trained to prepare them for their role. They meet regularly to support with acts of worship, write prayers and evaluate previous acts of worship. Their natural style and confidence has blossomed over time thanks to the loving and respectful culture of the school. In turn, their leadership and sharing of the Christian message blesses all those who join them for worship. Pupils are keen to be even more involved in planning, evaluating and leading. Prayer is highly valued within collective worship and during the school day. Beautiful prayer spaces have been created in communal areas and classrooms providing opportunities for the school community to reflect and pray. Pupils have a deep and personal understanding about prayer 'We use prayer to talk to God, it brings us closer in relationship with him.'

RE gives pupils' an impressive knowledge of the Bible, and a range of world faiths and views. They talk about Shabbat (Jewish Sabbath) and how it is different to the creation story. Discussing whether they would rather rest on a Saturday or Sunday. Pupils adeptly apply their critical thinking skills to analysis of text. They relate RE to the way they live out the school's vision and values. They say it is not only about pupils shining in school, but about their encounters and experiences in the world. Pupils are encouraged to savour works of art and natural phenomena in the world. In early years when re-creating the creation story, pupils discussed how much hard work it must have been. RE sparks curiosity and helps pupils articulate the values and vision.

The experienced RE leader is passionate about the subject. She enthusiastically shares her resources and skills with staff across all the schools. High expectations lead her to identify clear priorities and actions for improvement. She undertakes rigorous monitoring of the effectiveness of RE and gives her time freely to challenge and extend staff's knowledge and expertise. As a result, data and evidence in pupils' books, demonstrate a rapid progression of skills and knowledge and progress.

The image of flying like an eagle fires aspiration. There is a deep understanding that it is the power of love which is having a life-changing impact on this school community.



Information			
School	St Matthew's Church of England Primary School, Normanton	Inspection date	19 June 2023
URN	122764	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Southwell & Nottingham	Pupils on roll	47
Executive Headteacher	Kathryn King		
Chair of Governors	Sue Sinclair		
Inspector	Elaine Bowers	No.	960