

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

<b>St Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School</b>	
Address	Lower Street, Tettenhall, WV6 9AF
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
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>The Lord says, 'For I know the plans I have for you .... plans to give you hope and a future.'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jeremiah 29 verse 11</p> <p>As an inclusive Christian school, St Michael's Church of England (Aided) Primary School values everyone as a child of God and rejoices in its diversity. Our vision is to provide a happy, loving and nurturing environment where all have the confidence to make outstanding progress and so expand and fulfil their hopes and aspirations. Our inspiring, enriched curriculum promotes a thirst for knowledge and develops wisdom.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Michael's is a beacon of love and hope. Strong leadership, ably supported by skilled governors and dedicated staff, has created a vibrant Christian learning community. Here lives are being transformed.</li> <li>• This is a highly inclusive school where all pupils receive the support and challenge they need to flourish. As a result, they exhibit high aspirations and a mature understanding of difference and diversity.</li> <li>• St Michael's, coupled with the Ark, cherish the worth of each member of the school community. Exemplary care and support is demonstrated to the most vulnerable pupils, those with special educational needs and their families.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) and collective worship are outstanding. The passion and skill of leaders has inspired staff and children in school and beyond. Worship adds depth to the spiritual elements of school. Pupils play a key role in its planning, leading and evaluation.</li> <li>• The church and school communities are interwoven with the unified vision 'to give hope and a future' to all. This, alongside a passion for outreach, has resulted in St Michael's being the Christian heart of the local community.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultivate the school's role as a leader of church school education in order to promote excellence across the diocese and beyond.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

The highly effective leadership at all levels at St Michael's ensures that the distinctively Christian vision supports the established ethos. Inclusiveness, love and respect for the school community, ensures its overtly Christian mission is highly effective. It makes a difference to people's lives. All stakeholders are invested in the journey of its development. The Christian vision inexorably draws school, church, home and community into one family of God. They work together to ensure pupils 'learn to love and love to learn' and have 'high hopes and aspirations for their future.' Leaders show total commitment to driving forward the vision with passion and focus. Governors have a key role in the robust self-evaluation of the effectiveness of St Michael's as a church school.

Leaders' exceptional knowledge of and a passion for church schools, is inspirational. Their energy and enthusiasm results in the engagement in a range of innovative partnerships and outreach work. St Michael's support and share best practice with other local church schools. Leaders facilitate the network of the national professional qualifications in educational leadership. These, in addition to a plethora of other effective partnerships, ensures the Christian vision has a tangible impact beyond the school gates. The vision is instrumental in developing highly regarded leaders at all levels. Consequently, high expectations and aspirations are apparent across this caring school community.

Leaders make bold, ethical decisions to ensure the needs of all are met. Their commitment to build the Ark is testament to the vision of inclusivity. This social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) unit has an exceptional impact in supporting pupils' needs. It symbolises a place of sanctuary and safety. As a result, significantly more vulnerable pupils are accessing learning and making progress. Timely intervention and dedicated specialist support are pursued tenaciously to ensure all barriers to learning are overcome. St Michael's is truly inclusive, welcoming every child into the school family. Christian love and care run intrinsically through this diverse community. Parents speak of times when staff have gone above and beyond to support the needs of their families. Pupils develop an all-encompassing acceptance that transcends tolerance.

There are broad learning experiences, complemented through extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. These include artistic, cultural and sporting activities. They successfully indicate the aspirational view of education running through the school. There is a well-developed understanding of and approach to spiritual growth. Extremely effective opportunities are mapped out skilfully, enabling pupils to ask big questions and explore spiritual and ethical issues. Further spontaneous opportunities create rich experiences within a culture of deep reflection. Innovation is seen in a year 6 pilgrimage linking with the local churches. This involves journeying together with God around the local area, reflecting and praying at various locations. As a result, pupils experience a true sense of a spiritual journey. The Easter barefoot walk supports engagement with the concept of salvation in a creative way. Both experiences impacting profoundly on spiritual growth.

Pupils show Christian love and care through their mature response to the social action activities they are involved with. They speak passionately about things they have done that have made a significant difference to the lives of other people. At their own instigation, they set up a 'giving shed'. Members of the local community add and take essentials such as food, books, toiletries and stationery. Pupils challenge poverty at a local, national and international level. A strong link with Kananga school in Zambia has transformed their understanding of differences in culture and deprivation. A Zambian minister led worship enabling everyone to understand that they are part of a wider church family. In pursuit of social justice and equality, pupils have raised money to buy data for Kananga school. This has enabled regular



communication via WhatsApp.


Staff commitment to enriching lives is mirrored in the strength of respect and friendship between pupils. They are proud of the different faiths represented in school and have a deep appreciation of rich diversity. Pupils talk maturely about their understanding of inclusivity. The highly effective restorative behaviour policy and practice shows clear links to the school's vision and values. This results in exceptional behaviour. Pupils are taught about good and bad choices, how to disagree well and seek forgiveness. The inclusivity of the Christian vision is seen through its impact on the life of the adults in school. Staff retention is high and they cherish the development opportunities available. They speak highly of the senior leadership team and the excellent support they are given both as professionals and individuals.

Pupils respond enthusiastically to inspirational, invitational, and inclusive worship. Those from various faiths feel they are deeply included. Pupils express their appreciation of being in a school where there is a clear focus on God. They deeply appreciate the impact of worship on their lives. Pupils talk with maturity and insight, with powerful references to 'how magnificent the power of the spirit is.' Spiritual council leaders are enthusiastic about their role. They speak proudly of their weekly opportunities to plan, reflect on and evaluate worship. Pupils shape future developments and lead acts of worship in various settings. These inspirational and uplifting opportunities demonstrate the vision that all are valued by God. Pupils are highly engaged and respond well to questioning and moments of reflection. Christian beliefs about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are readily understood and explained. Each class regularly attends midweek eucharist at the church. The seamless partnership with the local church is impressive, they are deeply involved in the school's spiritual journey. The chaplaincy team are highly visible and regular presence in school. As a result, provision for collective worship is well developed and pupils confidently address complex spiritual concepts in RE. Prayer spaces are impactful and are planned with clergy who also provide strong pastoral support for the school family. Thorough systems of monitoring and evaluation ensure excellent worship is maintained.

RE is exceptionally well planned and led. Leaders have set up an RE network for local schools to moderate together and share exemplary practice. Pupils have a deep and impressive understanding of world religions and other views. They show an excellent appreciation of the need to promote global understanding. This is reflected in their own school life. One example is thoughtful interfaith dialogue between Christian and Muslim pupils. Christianity is understood as a multicultural world faith. Feedback is highly effective in helping pupils gauge their progress and the subject has an excellent impact on their lives.

St Michael's is transforming lives of pupils and adults. All in the school community are loved unconditionally and given the opportunity to flourish, realising their hopes and aspirations.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>Highly knowledgeable leadership of RE enables pupils to make excellent progress. Studies of Christian, Sikh and Muslim faiths give pupils a detailed understanding of the major faiths in their community. They readily apply knowledge of other religions to understanding one another. Pupils respond enthusiastically to ‘big questions’, becoming deeply critical thinkers. They confidently express their own beliefs and convictions. Regular engagement with text leads to a mature religious vocabulary and a deep understanding of Christianity.</p>			
Information				
School	St Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Tettenhall	Inspection date	28 April 2023	
URN	104384	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary Aided	
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	204 + 10 (In The Ark)	
Headteacher	Kate Jackson			
Chair of Governors	Sarah Douglas			
Inspector	Kerry Geddis	No.	955	