



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Austrey Church of England Primary School	
Address	St Nicholas Close, Austrey, Atherstone, CV9 3EQ
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
<p>Becoming the person God made me to be: living, learning, loving. Everyone counts. Everyone treated with dignity. Everyone offered hope for a bright future. Living like Jesus, generous, forgiving hearts enable flourishing. In a trusting culture, everyone's needs met, and everyone's God-given uniqueness contributes to the masterpiece of our community.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian ethos drives decision making. Effective pastoral support and curriculum development ensures that all pupils are valued individually, including those with additional needs. • This is a highly inclusive school, at the heart of the community, where strong partnerships enable all to flourish. The school values underpin every decision and relationship forged. There is less understanding among groups of the school community of the vision, rather than values, being a driver for change. • Collective Worship is valued, with planned opportunities for prayer and reflection. Pupils enjoy engaging, leading and evaluating provision, with enthusiastic singing a joyful expression of the vision. • Religious education (RE) explores a range of faiths and world beliefs. As a result, pupils are confident and respectful when sharing their views. Currently, pupils do not make connections between the study of RE and preparing them to live within a diverse society. • Pupils understand the school values and the need for respect and forgiveness in enabling their community to flourish. They are at an early stage of independently initiating and leading social action projects.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure greater clarity between vision and values, so that it is clear that the Christian vision drives the direction of the school. • Explore ways to broaden children's knowledge and experience between and within faiths, in order to support them to live in a multicultural and diverse society. • Consider ways in which children are able to initiate social action at a local, national and global level so that they can make an impact on the lives of others.

Inspection findings

Austrey Church of England Primary is a school which is at the very heart of the community it serves. Staff strive to ensure that every child knows that they are 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. They know each child and family well, treating them as unique and striving to provide equity for all. The Christian values of dignity and respect are evident in the strong relationships they build with families and the vibrant partnerships they forge to best serve the needs of their community.

Austrey shares a local academy board (LAB), headteacher and deputy headteacher with another small, local Church school. Leaders have worked strategically and with great passion, to build the strong links which are mutually beneficial for all, whilst appreciating the uniqueness of each school community. Austrey values the support and challenge of being part of the trust. Their shared mission of inclusivity empowers them to enable all to flourish, encompassing those with additional needs. Every child is valued for being the 'person God wanted them to be'. Christian distinctiveness advisors evaluate Austrey's impact as a church school. This enables leaders and governors to celebrate their strengths, identify areas for improvement and evaluate the impact of actions.

Leaders take part in Diocesan events and have forged strong bonds with local Church school networks including working with a third small Church school. The three schools provide a joint residential trip through which pupils are enabled to further develop their confidence and resilience. Training opportunities led to Austrey launching their own 'Story Tent' event. Pupils studied creation from a multi faith perspective which enabled them to understand the similarities and differences between religions in an interactive and enjoyable way.

The links between church, school and community are highly valued by pupils, staff, leaders and parents alike. The local church is represented on the LAB and supports provision in both collective worship and RE. Striving together to meet the needs of their community the school hosts the church led Youth 139 group, named after the psalm that underpins the school vision. This enables year 6 children to forge strong bonds with each other and remain rooted in their communities as they transition to secondary education.

Pupils are encouraged to deepen their understanding of the school's six Christian values through collective worship. They seek to put these into practice in their own lives and recognise them in others. Staff at all levels live these values in their work and it drives the strong and trusting relationships they have with each other and within their community; supporting all to flourish. Leaders use the school vision of 'Becoming the person God wanted me to be: living, learning, loving', to underpin their decision making. There is less understanding among other groups of the school community that it is this Christian vision, rather than values, that drive the strategic direction of the school.

Leaders have made bold curriculum decisions to ensure that it meets the needs of every child. Staff provide appropriate and sensitive support to pupils with additional needs, ensuring dignity and respect. Pupils develop a deeper appreciation of the inclusivity that is at the root of this school because resources are carefully chosen to ensure that diversity of culture, faith and disability reflect the world in which they live.

Pupils understand that the use of reflection and prayer in collective worship are spiritual opportunities. Older pupils appreciate that quiet times, nature, music and their relationships with others can be spiritual too and 'fill their buckets'. The school has a shared statement of spirituality and planned opportunities to encourage rich spiritual growth across the curriculum, although the impact of this is yet to be evaluated.

Staff provide excellent pastoral support to both pupils and families and are rigorous in ensuring that pupils' wellbeing is at the very centre of their provision. Children with additional needs cherish the

opportunities to flourish at forest school and the respectful and loving support they receive from the adults around them.

Pupils aspire to put their school values into practice. Through the sensitive use of 'picture news' in collective worship, they are increasingly aware of the range of global issues. Pupils of all ages still describe the positive impact on their school and village of hosting a Ukrainian family. Staff, pupils and parents all sought to embrace them through their powerful value of 'community'. The school clearly undertakes a range of charitable projects, including supporting a local foodbank. Younger pupils appreciate the enthusiastic work done by Year 6 to improve the wildlife area for all to use. Currently, pupils are less clear that they can initiate and lead social action beyond their school environment.

The school's relationships and sex education curriculum mirror the inclusive approach. They encourage children to appreciate that they are 'wonderfully made', laying the foundation to build healthy relationships. The subject champion for RE has ensured that the curriculum is well planned and appropriately resourced. It is explored through 'big questions' and pupils thoroughly enjoy the opportunities for discussion and to reflect on their own views. Pupils study Christianity and a range of faiths and world views. Older pupils do not make the connection between RE and preparing them to live in a multicultural and diverse society. However, younger pupils' visit to a local mosque was described as the 'best visit ever!' and as a result they have a deeper understanding of Islam in practice.

Collective worship is at the core of the school day, and pupils deepen their understanding of school values through Bible stories. Pupils can explain the Christian concept of God the father, son and holy spirit. The elected worship council enjoy being able to lead the words that welcome the school community together. They have also embraced the opportunities to plan and deliver their own content. All pupils are given time to write prayers that reflect on personal, national or community events, which are treasured and kept as they move through the years and finally leave the school.

Information			
School	Austrey Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	28 June 2023
URN	140125	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Birmingham Diocese	Pupils on roll	89
MAT/Federation	Birmingham Diocesan Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Sara Eley		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Lesa Neild		
Inspector	Claire Dunstan	No.	