

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

<b>Bluecoat Primary Academy</b>	
Address	Harvey Road, Billborough, NG8 3BB
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
Through believing in ourselves, in others and in God we STRIVE for life in all its fullness.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aspirational and extremely inclusive Christian vision of the school profoundly reflects the context of the community it serves. As a result, the lives of pupils and adults are transformed.</li> <li>• The deeply embedded celebration of difference and diversity is a golden thread that flows naturally through every aspect of school life. Consequently, individuals are loved as unique children of God and feel extremely valued as part of the 'Bluecoat family'. This excellent practice is starting to be shared with other schools.</li> <li>• Exceptional pastoral care is uniquely tailored to the needs of individual pupils and their families. Barriers to education are imaginatively broken down and 'striving for life in all its fullness' becomes a reality.</li> <li>• Innovative planning and evaluation of collective worship, including by pupils, ensures it is highly inclusive and extends impressively into the local community. It stimulates deep personal reflection and inspires individuals to 'believe in themselves and others'.</li> <li>• Expertly planned religious education (RE) ensures all pupils have exceptionally deep knowledge and understanding of a wide range of religions and worldviews. The shared approach to spirituality provides opportunities for spiritual flourishing, these are particularly embedded and rich in RE.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully embed the shared approach to spiritual development across the curriculum to further enhance opportunities for spiritual flourishing.</li> <li>• Further develop work with other schools to share imaginative practice around the celebration of diversity and difference.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

The school's deeply Christian vision underpins innovative practice and permeates out into the local community. It creates a richly inclusive environment where individuals are nurtured to 'believe' and 'strive for life in all its fullness'. Consequently, there is exceptional flourishing for all, especially the most vulnerable, and lives are transformed. The school rejoices in its diversity. An imaginative project enables pupils to create their own stick people to demonstrate the beauty of difference. This results in an exceptionally harmonious school community where all pupils embrace each other as equals. Leaders have seized recent opportunities to share their excellence in this area, spreading their Christian vision beyond their own school. There are meaningful opportunities for staff to develop professionally and countless examples of progression both within the school and Archway Trust. Consequently, staff flourish in their roles. Governors ensure there is a highly robust system in place to evaluate the school as a Church school. They hold leaders to account to ensure there is a relentless drive for all to have a 'fullness of life'.

The courageous, and vision led, curriculum is aspirational and uniquely tailored to meet the needs of Bluecoat Primary pupils. There is a myriad of meaningful and creative opportunities to celebrate differences. Resources are deliberately chosen with diversity in mind so that every child can connect personally with the learning. Consequently, pupils are highly engaged in lessons and are inspired to 'believe in themselves'. Bespoke and imaginative adaptations ensure all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), thrive. Pupils are emboldened to be curious. They relish opportunities to ask big questions which, in turn, deepen their understanding of their place in the world. Through the extensive enrichment offer, such as a visit to Newstead Abbey, the curriculum moves pupils beyond their lived experiences. Numerous planned and spontaneous opportunities enhance moments of spiritual development throughout the curriculum. This leads to profound opportunities for spiritual flourishing within RE and collective worship. As a result of the innovative curriculum, pupils are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education. This exemplifies the transformational impact of the Christian vision in action.

The continual strive for 'life in all its fullness' ensures wellbeing is at the heart of leaders' actions. Staff enjoy opportunities to pray and connect with each other and greatly appreciate the thought that is given to workload. As a result, staff retention is very high. A bespoke and responsive personal development programme provides opportunities for pupils to explore topics such as positive mental health and resilience. Consequently, pupils talk passionately about 'marvellous mistakes' and how this helps them to 'believe in themselves'. It also inspires pupils to take on leadership roles, including prefects and school council. Pupils are passionate advocates for change. They know how to challenge injustice and inequality and effectively put this into practice. A recent litter pick was planned with the aim of making their local area 'more like heaven'. Pupils have also collected crisp packets to turn into blankets for homeless people. In its work to become a 'school of sanctuary,' pupils and staff are educated about the human right to a place of safety. As a result, pupils work collaboratively to produce inspiring art work depicting the journey of a refugee. This deepens their ability to empathise and enhances their understanding of the dignity of all human life.

Bold financial decisions, driven by the Christian vision, ensure pastoral care is of the highest possible standard. This includes the employment of a Christian youth worker as well as family and mental health support staff. The school works compassionately to ensure barriers to education are overcome and lives are changed. As a result, pupil attendance is a strength and flourishing extends to whole families. Parents and carers are an integral part of the




school, engaging in regular activities such as 'stay and read' times. This contributes to the high levels of trust that parents have in the school. The behaviour system, based on forgiveness and justice, is supported by skilful behaviour mentors. Consequently, behaviour is exemplary and pupils learn how to deescalate themselves in heightened situations.

Collective worship is a highly joyful occasion that is creatively welcoming to all. It is referred to as 'believe time', underpinned by the vision of 'believing in ourselves, in others and in God'. Highly enthusiastic pupil leaders regularly plan and lead worship, which inspires even deeper engagement by their peers. Rigorous evaluation ensures it remains wonderfully inclusive. Imaginative prayer gestures allow everyone to personally engage in meaningful reflection. The impact of worship permeates into all aspects of school life. Pupils explain how it helps them to live well together. It provides rich opportunities for pupils to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. There are excellent links with local churches. The 'together' after school service cohesively links home, school and church. It provides a safe environment where children and families can connect deeply with God. This excellent practice has been shared with church and school leaders. Prayer has a vital place in the life of the school. The dedicated multi-faith space, which is intentionally centrally located, provides opportunities for prayer and reflection.

RE is expertly planned and has a pivotal place in the curriculum. Opportunities to engage with religious text and theological ideas enrich pupils' religious literacy. Staff and parents, from a variety of world faiths, share their own beliefs and practices with pupils. This inspires pupils to ask questions, deepening their own understanding. RE lessons are a very safe space where pupils respect each other's views. The youngest children enjoy sharing shoeboxes from home to teach their peers about their own faith. The subject leader is highly skilled and shares her expertise both within and outside of school. As a result, staff feel well-supported and equipped to deliver RE to the highest standard. A highly effective assessment system is in place. This provides meaningful opportunities for pupils to engage with feedback and allows for high quality and impactful adaptations to be made.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>The progressive and highly engaging curriculum supports pupils to go deeper with their thinking in RE. Pupils are very enthusiastic about their learning and the importance of it. As a result of the powerful combination of a creative curriculum and effective teaching, pupils' work is of an exceptionally high standard. It demonstrates a deep knowledge and understanding of worldviews and faiths, including Christianity. Consequently, all pupils, including those with SEND and the most able, make clear progress.</p>			
Information				
School	Bluecoat Primary Academy	Inspection date	29 June 2023	
URN	145145	VC/VA/Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Southwell & Nottingham	Pupils on roll	445	
MAT/Federation	Archway Learning Trust			
Headteacher	Sue-Ellen Shaw			
Chair of Governors	Sally MacDonald			
Inspector	Kelly Wall	No.	951	