

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

<b>Dodleston Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	Church Road, Dodleston, Chester, CH4 9NG
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>Learning to love ourselves, love each other, love learning, love life, for God is love. Every child is a unique child of God. We encourage them to discover their talents and build life skills rooted in Christian values. We inspire them to take God's love into the world and know that they can do all things through Christ.</p> <p>'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school's Christian vision is carefully crafted and appropriate for the Dodleston school family. It enables adults and pupils to flourish and grow in a supportive and loving school community.</li> <li>• Inspired by the vision, staff have created a warm and welcoming environment. All are encouraged to treat one another with dignity and respect.</li> <li>• Adults live out the vision through their commitment to serving all pupils and their families. Pupils willingly participate in new opportunities with confidence and are developing as advocates for social justice.</li> <li>• Collective worship is varied and enjoyed by all. It provides valuable opportunities for the individual classes and whole school worship. These experiences enable pupils and staff to grow and flourish together. The robustness of systems to monitor the effectiveness of worship are less developed.</li> <li>• The religious education (RE) curriculum is broad and relevant, providing a space for deep thinking. It supports the development of pupils' knowledge and understanding of worldviews and faiths, including Christianity. However, the extent to which pupils have a clear understanding of Christianity as a global world faith is limited.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable pupils and adults, to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of the collective worship. This is to further enhance the provision of worship throughout the school.</li> <li>• Deepen pupils' understanding of the breadth of Anglican of worship. This is to enrich their knowledge of Christianity as a global faith.</li> <li>• Enhance systems and process of evaluation of the effectiveness of the collective worship. This is to strengthen leaders' understanding of the impact and effectiveness of worship on pupils and adults.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

Dodleston is a warm, welcoming and loving village primary school. Their vision and nurturing leadership support all to live out the associated values in action. Positive, strong relationships at all levels underpin high aspiration. The school values of koinonia, peace, forgiveness, justice, compassion and respect are confidently articulated by everyone. Pupils speak with confidence and conviction about being encouraged to 'have a go' at every opportunity offered. Pupils, parents and staff talk about the values giving examples of how these are shown in daily interactions. For example, incidents of bullying are dealt with swiftly, both parties receiving ongoing support. Pupils are encouraged to reconcile differences and act with forgiveness and compassion.

In line with the vision, the curriculum is designed to be inclusive and supportive of pupils needs. Pupils are encouraged to be inquisitive and discover their talents through a range of extracurricular activities. High aspirations for everyone result in a supportive inclusive environment for all. This includes pupils considered vulnerable and those who have special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND). All pupils access the full curriculum and whole class learning. Highly trained support staff offer additional help in class. The headteacher has prioritised training of the teaching assistants. Each is trained in a different specialised area of need, for example, dyslexia. This allows them to work across classes enabling pupils to flourish and make progress in their learning.

Leaders encourage pupils to think about wider world issues. Pupils are encouraged to be protectors of God's world and research ways to reverse environmental and climate catastrophes. Dodleston has an outside garden space where all pupils can grow different things. Inspired by COP 26, pupils have developed a whole school project which provides opportunities to think about the environment. Letters written to MPs provide a valued platform for pupils to share their ideas and receive responses. Opportunities for pupils to speak at Chester Cathedral about the environment strengthened their understanding of challenging injustice. Pupils understand what it means to be compassionate through supporting a wide range of charities. Through these opportunities, they have a growing understanding of how to be a courageous advocate for change. The 'Home for Christmas' play about a lady who was homeless inspired parents and pupils to collect outdoor clothing. The donation of these to charity enriched the lives of all who received these gifts. Pupils recently discussed refugees and the response they get when they arrive in new countries. This prompted their thinking about the welcome they would like a friend to receive who moves to another country.

Parents speak with love and respect about the school. They talk about how the school actively encourages everyone to try everything, building confidence and resilience. Parents recognise the dedication of the small team of staff and community spirit is richly embraced. The 'Dodleston Dawdle' is a joyful and eagerly anticipated annual activity where staff, pupils, parents and community come together for a long walk around the village. This event is a highlight in the calendar, exemplifying what it looks like to live well together. Pupils benefit from personal guidance and help from staff, which prepares them well for life outside school. Every child in Reception has a buddy in Year 6. This support continues throughout the year. They sit together at lunch and walk together to the village hall. This opportunity enables them to actively live out the 'love each other' part of the vision. All are taught to cross the road responsibly as soon as they begin the school journey supporting the wider curriculum development of life skills.

Committed, compassionate pastoral support is at the centre of the schools' approach to supporting wellbeing. Through effective intervention, a sense of wellbeing is restored to pupils struggling with mental health concerns. The direct impact of this is that they are able

to access their academic work, supporting their development. Staff are passionate about every pupil meeting their full potential. They work relentlessly to ensure pupils receive the appropriate assessments and funding. Driven by the school values, the behaviour policy is based upon forgiveness and new starts. Through this, a culture of hope is achieved. Pupils behave well and demonstrate great care and respect for each other. They have high expectations of themselves, encouraged through the vision, and the school provides a happy, supportive working environment. Sensitive leadership ensures adults feel their wellbeing is supported and staff workload is sensitively managed. Staff feel valued and are fulfilled. Effective partnerships with the wider, local community, including the use of the village hall and local field, enrich the life of the school. 'Move up Fridays' throughout July enable those moving to primary school to spend time in school building confidence ready for September.

RE is held in high regard and this is reflected in the curriculum time allocated. The diocese provides valuable training, for example with the introduction of 'Understanding Christianity'. The RE lead works collaboratively with staff in planning and sharing good practice. Currently, curriculum planning is focussed on developing and deepening the understanding pupils have of Christianity across the world. Pupils have good knowledge of Bible stories. Pupils worship at the local church at significant points in the Anglican year. The school choir's monthly visit to the church coffee morning supports the flourishing relationship between pupils with the local congregation. Pupils sing for those attending and share refreshments. They speak warmly about this event, enjoying singing and talking with adults. The daily programme of collective worship encourages pupils and staff to reflect on their actions and behaviours. They are given opportunities to flourish, and pupils have reflection areas around school and in each classroom. An outside space which was designed by the ethos team offers spiritual reflection in nature. Pupils quickly learn about the symbolism of lighting three candles at the start of collective worship. Opportunities for pupil and wider staff leadership of worship are less developed.

'I can do all things through God who strengthens me' reverberates through the school supported by genuine love and compassion.

Information			
School	Dodleston Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	7 July 2023
URN	111272	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Chester	Pupils on roll	83
Headteacher	Julie Boyes		
Chair of Governors	Anne Tunicliffe		
Inspector	Tina Astley	No.	2205