

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Leek Beresford Memorial Church of England First School	
Address	Novi Lane, ST13 6NR
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
<p style="text-align: center;">School's vision</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘Loving and Learning Together with God.’</p> <p>Our vision at Beresford Memorial First School is to inspire all children to flourish and achieve their God given potential, whilst loving and learning together with God.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘You must love each other as I have loved you.’ (John 13: 34)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school embodies its Christian vision. Committed and passionate leaders drive the vision, ensuring it has significant impact on the curriculum, policies and life of the school. • Adults and pupils display genuine care and respect for each other, treating all members of the school community with dignity which changes lives. The school has strong, transformational relationships at all levels which are rooted in trust, enabling pupils to flourish. • The school partners effectively with local churches ensuring a mutually beneficial collaboration. Pupils actively support their local community but have less opportunity in engaging with global issues. • Exemplary leadership of RE enables pupils to thrive and develop their spirituality. As a result, pupils to make excellent progress in the subject. • Collective worship is engaging and inspiring, allowing pupils and staff to confidently explore faith and spirituality, and reflect on how to live out Christian values. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Areas for development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on current expressions of courageous advocacy in order to develop pupils further in becoming active, global citizens. • Further develop collaborative work with local churches to broaden pupil's understanding of the breadth of Christian traditions and practices. 	

Inspection findings

Jesus' example of love is at the heart of this school, inspiring and impacting everyone's learning and life. The school's underpinning Christian vision is at the forefront of leaders' minds in all strategic decisions. For example, the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and the employment of supportive teaching assistants. The result of their vision-driven thinking enlightens and shapes school development policies and priorities. Thoughtfully selected Christian values are a deeply-rooted feature of the school and are embodied by staff. The school's ability to shape lives is exceptional and extraordinary. Consequently, all adults and pupils, including those considered vulnerable, feel valued and flourish. Pastoral support by leadership is exceptional and transformative. Staff feel part of a family and empowered to pursue personal and professional goals. Hence, they are highly valued and respected, and empowered to advance in professional development. Regular visits and involvement by the governors ensure the vision is frequently monitored. Additional guidance is given by the Talentum Learning Trust, enabling leaders to appropriately implement the vision.

A dynamic and inspiring curriculum, inspired by the vision, provides rich opportunities for pupils to grow. As a result, pupils develop significantly in a nurturing environment which supports their academic, personal and spiritual development. Courageous decisions made by leaders at all levels ensure a range of curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities. The impact of this is that pupils' spirituality is deepened and enriched. Staff are passionate about every child succeeding, and skilfully identify appropriate ways to challenge and support vulnerable and SEND pupils. Consequently, every pupil's progress is celebrated and pupils report 'loving learning'. Many extra-curricular activities, for example Forest School, inspire pupils to contemplate creation and great mysteries of life. Thus, pupils extensively benefit from opportunities to understand what spirituality means to them and flourish in the widest sense.

Strong theological understanding enables the vision to have profound impact on pupils' character development. Through engaging in inspiring careers activities, staff cultivate aspiration and enable pupils to imagine the person they can be. Links with the community are constructive and mutually beneficial. For example, the pupils have worked with the local parish church in supporting the charity uniform bank. Through this, pupils have a heightened awareness of social justice and how to be courageous advocates for change in their community. Pupils exhibit considerable perseverance in tackling issues such as need in the community and across the world. The school has well-established links with Masoyi Trust, a charity supporting families in South Africa. This partnership has enabled pupils to explore disadvantage and exploitation in other world areas.

Pupils accurately speak of how the vision helps them know how to 'learn to love each other as Jesus loved'. Parents report the school as 'safe and loving' with staff that deeply care for their children. Therefore, the school is a beacon in the community which tangibly impacts on pupils' lives. Difference is celebrated and pupils learn how to live well with people that are dissimilar to them. The practices of reconciliation are taught and modelled by staff with every day being 'a fresh start'. Therefore, relationships are exceptional between all members of the school community, embodying the vision of 'loving one another'. Beresford Memorial helps many families and pupils overcome significantly challenging times. Parents speak very highly of the support offered by all adults in school, often going 'above and beyond' what was hoped for. As a result, parents express their admiration for the school and the generous care shown to pupils by staff.

Leaders ensure the school's vision drives an ethos of dignity and respect. Supportive

relationships engender inclusivity and value for all. Stereotypes and social injustice are thoughtfully challenged through the curriculum and careful choice of role models. For example, units on Rosa Parks and segregation and work with Police Community Support Officers. Consequently, pupils learn to welcome and care for those different to themselves and confront prejudicial actions and language. Leaders prioritise pupil and staff wellbeing through creative and innovative strategies, for example the 'Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship' (SCARF) scheme. Parents refer to numerous examples of how staff support their child's mental health with compassion and dignity. Hence, pupils report feeling 'each one of us is special' and can 'let our light shine'.

Inspiring collective worship embodies the school's vision, uniting the community. For example, pupils are eager to be seen 'loving as Jesus loved'. Daily worship is inclusive and carefully structured, ensuring it flows from the vision and explores the teachings of Jesus. Pupils and adults reflect that worship helps them through difficult times. Therefore, staff and pupils value worship as being the heartbeat of school life and beneficial to the whole community. With close support from the link governor, the collective worship lead expertly steers worship. Worship is planned, delivered, monitored and evaluated by pupils and adults in the Christian Council. Additionally, pupils and staff lead worship in class settings as part of the range of worship practices. Singing, prayer, silence drama and stories are used intelligently, generating thoughtful spiritual encounters. Prayer activities within gathered worship are complemented by prayer activities in each classroom. Hence, pupils and staff are invited to engage in a rich culture of deep reflection which significantly impacts their spiritual development. Partnerships with Anglican and Methodist leaders further enrich worship, allowing pupils to explore a range of Christian traditions and festivals. Pupils, as a result, appreciate different liturgical practices within the Christian faith. However, pupils' understanding of broader Christian tradition is limited. The collective worship lead regularly attends diocesan training and provides training to the other Trust schools. Thus, new resources and creative methods shape the school's worshipping life.

RE strongly reflects the school's vision. RE teaching significantly develops pupils' religious literacy and understanding of the tradition of Christianity, sequenced in an age-appropriate way. Pupils show a good understanding of the impact of Christianity on British society and the wide world. They take pride in their work, and relish RE as a safe space to reflect on what has been taught. Thoughtful and creative teaching ensures all groups of pupils explore their religious opinions and spiritual practices. Therefore, pupils learn extremely well and enjoy the variety of enquiry, deep thinking and exploratory questioning. Moderation with local and Trust schools demonstrates that standards are high in RE. The outreach work of school's RE lead within local schools is indicative of the high level of expertise, knowledge and skill in RE.

Being part of Beresford Memorial school changes lives, as encapsulated by one governor's reflection: pupils are 'safe, loved, and given every opportunity to flourish as their own person'.

	The effectiveness of RE is	Excellent		
	<p>Effective leadership ensures high-quality provision which reflects statutory and church requirements. Teaching and learning in RE is excellent, as evident in pupil conversations and books. Pupils are captivated and inspired by engaging and stimulating lessons, using religious terms accurately with confidence. Robust monitoring and assessment ensure progress is strong across all abilities. Leaders, including governors, confidently know all pupils make at least good progress in RE, with many making excellent progress.</p>			
Information				
School	Leek Beresford Memorial Church of England First School	Inspection date	22 June 2023	
URN	146589	VC/VA/Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	136	
MAT/Federation	The Talentum Learning Trust			
Headteacher	Caroline Quinn			
Chair of Governors	Katherine Burmeister			
Inspector	Stephen Birkinshaw	No.	2213	