

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

<b>Meole Brace Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	Church Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 9HG
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	Good

School's vision
<p>'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16</p> <p>As a school and a community, we give children every opportunity to flourish and let the light of God shine through them, remembering that it is only with God's help - the source of all light - that we will be most able to shine brightly.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The devoted leadership team ensures that lights of aspiration and respect are ignited for everyone. Consequently, the lives of pupils and staff shine brightly as they are nurtured in love and trust.</li> <li>• Strong relationships with the local church strengthen the school's capacity to fulfil its life-enhancing Christian vision. The school shines as a beacon, generously spreading light and hope to those in the local community.</li> <li>• A carefully considered curriculum ensures that there is a rich culture of deep reflection. The school is constantly seeking new ways of nurturing pupils to grow spiritually.</li> <li>• Inspirational collective worship enables pupils to have a deep understanding of Bible narratives. This impacts on the wonderfully harmonious way that the school community lives and learns together. However, a variety of worship style is underdeveloped.</li> <li>• Religious Education (RE) of the highest quality is a remarkable strength of this calm and reflective community.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop more creative ways of worshipping so that everyone can appreciate an even wider breadth of Christian tradition.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

An extraordinary atmosphere of light and love radiates within the school where everyone is valued. The bold and apparent Christian vision enables all to shine confidently as their own unique talents are celebrated. There is an honesty and openness in relationships, which are liberating. Devoted school leaders work closely together as a highly effective team. They are resolved to extend high levels of aspiration and wisdom throughout the school. A great sense of trust and fulfilment motivates the staff to be the best that they can be for every child. Within a harmonious atmosphere, pupils are nurtured and enjoy learning. They are encouraged to persevere and be ambitious. This is especially apparent in relation to impressive outcomes for those with additional needs. The manner of care for each pupil illuminates a Christ-like way of life and service. In turn, this is reflected in their considerate behaviour and attitudes. Pupils demonstrate that everyone has their own right to shine in their own special way by treating each other with respect and dignity. The school's governors are explicit about their belief in the value of a Christian education. They are committed to building on the school's firm Christian foundation. The governing body reflects deeply and creatively to ensure that the vision permeates all aspects of school life. Consequently, it is constantly evolving to provide a rich and vibrant education. Increasing school numbers indicate the confidence and gratitude of the local community.

A powerfully supportive relationship between the local parish Church and school extends and deepens the Christian vision. Church leaders and members rejoice in their weekly involvement to support spiritual growth. Their enthusiasm is highly significant in fuelling the school to shine brightly. Leaders provide opportunities for pupils and staff to ask big questions, reflect and pray. In this calm space everyone is free to talk about life's challenges and joys. In such ways, the school prioritises the wellbeing of all. The church plans and leads collective worship each week along with pupil chaplains. These inspirational times have a profound impact on the school's understanding of the way that it lives and serves. A candle is lit and words are spoken which symbolises God as a transforming source of light. Through creative drama and pupil involvement, Bible stories come alive and are readily recalled. Pupils relate biblical narratives to the school's key Christian values of community, respect and perseverance. Collective worship develops a Christian understanding of qualities such as being truthful. As a result, pupils understand that being a shining light is about treating others well. The practices of forgiveness and reconciliation are life-changing as they result in peace of mind. Church and school leaders enable pupils to have a deep understanding of Christian Festivals. This impacts on an increasingly deep understanding of Jesus' life and teachings as they journey through the school.

The school serves this local community with acceptance, love and kindness. Parents and carers speak of a warm welcome extended to all, which 'brightens every day'. They rightly describe school staff who go out of their way to meet the needs of pupils and their families. Particularly during times of difficulty, the support given in practical ways is deeply appreciated. The relentless application of this during the pandemic was life-enhancing. Small deeds coupled with words of kindness brought comfort and assurance. There is a unity of purpose and high endeavour, which radiates throughout this community. The school is instrumental in working together with other local schools and dioceses to explore ways of shining even more brightly. It is generous in sharing its vision and practice for the benefit of others.

The weekly timetable for collective worship offers a variety of different ways for pupils to engage and respond. A dedicated time is given for all to learn about, discuss and reflect on current affairs. In response, driven by compassion, pupils want to bring light where there is

darkness. They endeavour to make a difference driven by a deep sense of justice and care for God's world. Recent consideration of the war in Ukraine prompted pupils to plan a whole-school worship time alongside practical support. Collective worship is closely associated with Christian values. Shining Light Awards celebrate and motivate pupils. They reinforce the understanding that shining is about the way they choose to live as well as learn. Pupils are familiar with worship within the Anglican tradition. However, they do not fully benefit from the richness of worship as experienced by an even wider range of Christian traditions.

The awe-inspiring learning environment is driven by the vision to direct thoughts upwards, inwards and outwards. It motivates creative experiences in which every pupil can excel and shine. This wonderful school provides 'wow' moments in planned schemes of work. It also gives the freedom for spontaneous moments of wonder, prayer and questioning. Teaching and learning focuses on developing life-long skills of perseverance and independence. In RE lessons, pupils are able to recall what they have studied at previous times. Consequently, they use religious language confidently and thoughtfully to convey their understanding of world faiths and beliefs. The RE curriculum is planned so that pupils meet with people from different faith communities. This enables them to understand how faith affects lifestyles and choices. RE leaders ensure that teaching of the highest quality enables all pupils to be supported and challenged appropriately. Skills of questioning and respectful debate contribute to their understanding as well as spiritual development.

The vision, to shine God's light, becomes a reality as lives are enriched in this community. Drawn together in love, this school family is a beacon of justice and joy.

Information			
School	Meole Brace Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	21 June 2023
URN	135789	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	408
Headteacher	Henry Bray		
Chair of Governors	Roy Whitfield-Percy		
Inspector	Angela Daniel	No.	757