

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Margaret's Church of England Junior School, Leamington Spa	
Address	Coppice Road, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, CV31 2JF
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

School's vision
<p>St. Margaret's CE Junior School is a strong Christian community where all unite and flourish. Our family is guided by God's teachings of love, courage, hope and service, enabling everyone to thrive as happy and fulfilled individuals. Ignited by God's Spirit, our children shine as a light in the world.</p> <p>How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity (Psalm 133 verse 1)</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High levels of leadership expertise, ensure the deeply relevant theologically rooted Christian vision unwaveringly drives the actions of the school. As a result, every pupil, including those with additional needs and the most vulnerable 'shine' and flourish in learning. • The innovative learning experiences encourage pupils to ask big questions and think globally about life, equipping them to challenge injustice. Consequently, they are empowered to be agents for change that have a transformational impact on the lives of others. • 'Flourishing as a family' is championed by leaders who watch over everyone with love and compassion. This well-established nurturing culture has created a learning community with high expectations and a deep sense of wellbeing for all. • Collective worship is inspirational and a beacon of light that guides school life, contributing deeply to the spirituality of all. This means pupils reflect deeply and offer profound responses to thought-provoking questions. • Exemplary leadership of religious education (RE) ensures high-quality provision that consistently expresses the school's Christian vision. This has enabled pupils to develop an excellent degree of religious literacy about Christianity and other world faiths and views.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate opportunities for leaders to promote excellence by sharing the high levels of expertise across schools. This is to enable others to benefit, so flourishing is far-reaching beyond St. Margaret's.

Inspection findings

St. Margaret's deeply embedded vision to 'live together in unity' is at the heart of this excellent school. The biblical theology and associated values underpin the Christian culture of loving acceptance. Inspirational leaders expertly articulate the language of the vision and how it holistically drives every strategic decision. Rooted in being a diverse community, the outstanding leadership theologically extended the school ethos to create a shared federation vision. 'Flourishing as a family' ensures the school's Christian distinctiveness is transformational beyond St. Margaret's. This informs exemplary practice, creating an extremely cohesive partnership between the joint staff teams. The federated governing body, true to the vision of unity, has also grown in strength. Supportive and challenging governance are exceptionally proactive and know the school well. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation ensure that the school's Christian character remains at the heart of school improvement. As a result, strong evidence demonstrates how well the needs of pupils are being met. Lives are changed through vision led courageous decisions made by leaders. For example, governors prioritised a financial commitment to extend a classroom, ensuring pupils and staff could flourish in their learning environment. Inspirational leaders model Christian service, inspiring a deeply rooted, all-encompassing inclusive culture of understanding and compassion for all. As a result, the school community is united, enabling exceptional flourishing. Testimonials from parents, visitors and the diocese correctly demonstrate how the school 'oozes distinctiveness' and encourages children to 'shine'.

The school's vision drives the strong partnerships with the Church, diocese, British Council, other schools and national networks. Professional development is expanded through these partnerships, leading to high levels of expertise. As a result, the outward looking leaders and staff generously support a myriad of schools to develop. Leaders aim to cultivate further opportunities to promote excellence across the diocese and beyond, to enable far-reaching flourishing.

High expectations and big questions drive the innovative, bespoke learning experiences, supporting inclusion for all. Underpinned by character education, pupils gain qualities that help them develop, such as resilience, teamwork, empathy and perseverance. As a result, high aspirations and striving to be 'the best they can be' is inherent at St. Margaret's. Learning opportunities for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and for those deemed the most vulnerable are exceptional. Celebrating the uniqueness of every child equips each individual to live the fullness of life and 'shine'. Through loving partnerships and regular coffee afternoons, families are also supported, helped and cared for. Letters have been received from parents thanking the staff for their kind support. Feedback from external providers has highlighted the remarkable ways in which the school has been innovative. For example, every afternoon nurturing activities such as cookery and woodland club are offered. Attendance has been improved by some attending this provision, with pupils rightly stating, 'nurture afternoons have made us flourish'.

Woven throughout the curriculum are opportunities to celebrate and respect difference and diversity. Learning about significant people who have shaped the world to be a better place, for example. The British Council recognises the school's outstanding development of the international dimension in the curriculum. Through the 'One World Link Programme' a strong partnership with a school in Sierra Leone has developed. Hence, a clear perspective of living in the global wider world has been gained. These experiences have helped to equip pupils to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to become agents of change. As a result, every child regularly engages in a courageous advocacy project, with the confidence to passionately speak out against injustice.



At St. Margaret's the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) curriculum promotes critical thinking, personal reflection and spiritual growth. Class worship tables and outdoor quiet areas provide excellent opportunities to think and wonder about the 'big questions' of life. Consequently, adults and pupils can clearly articulate their interconnected experiences in the wider world and their deeply profound contemplations.

The lived out Christian vision has cultivated loving relationships, which are underpinned by dignity and respect. Parents, with justification, speak highly of the school. They enthuse about how 'privileged' they feel to send their children to St. Margaret's. Validated by stating, 'Staff hear what we say, as well as nurturing and caring for our children'. Consequently, lives are being deeply touched as a result of the Christian culture of the school. Exemplary behaviour, acceptance for all and Christian forgiveness through restorative conversations, enrich all relationships. Thus, positively impacting on the good mental health of adults and pupils. School councillors, worship ambassadors and the senior students group take pride in their leadership responsibilities. They drive the school forward, by reporting on the impact of their actions. The pupils are a product of the vision and through their courage and service impact positively on the flourishing of all. Staff speak correctly when stating that leaders are naturally gracious. They warmly discuss the support received in times of need, which is lovingly extended to include their families. Passionately committed to building confidence and resilience in the school community is key for the leadership team. Governors also prioritise staff wellbeing, ensuring all decisions are acceptable on their workload. Therefore, adults feel leaders, ignited by God's love, enable them and their families to flourish.

Collective worship is inspirational and is central to the distinctively Christian life of the school. It is highly valued by the diverse community for its inclusiveness and transformational impact. Past pupils and teaching students demonstrate the empowering influence it has had on their lives. Strong links with formal partners enriches worship greatly. Hence, pupils' knowledge of Anglican traditions and understanding of the diversity of Christianity is exceptional. Members of the church further enhance the school's Christian character by running the well-attended 'Beacons club' and 'Messy church'. Supported by the local vicar, pupils are thoroughly involved in planning, delivering and evaluating worship. Their findings inform future developments to ensure there is a positive impact for all. Consequently, it is more interactive, and all worshippers enjoy the thought-provoking level of engagement. The school community eagerly embraces opportunities for prayer, singing and meaningful reflection, supporting a rich culture of spiritual wellbeing.

Aspirational leaders have expertly crafted an innovative and creative RE curriculum that skilfully encompasses the Statement of Entitlement. Pupils are incredibly enthusiastic about the subject, articulately describing how they debate big questions around religions and worldviews. As a result, an excellent degree of religious literacy is demonstrated.

St. Margaret's is a beacon that shines its light on the community. The Christian commitment to 'live together in unity' makes this truly inclusive school innately flourish as one family.



Information			
School	St Margaret's Church of England Junior School, Leamington Spa	Inspection date	16 June 2023
URN	125667	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Coventry	Pupils on roll	361
Headteacher	Sukie Owers Executive Headteacher & Ruth Anstee Head of School		
Chair of Governors	Debbie Morgan		
Inspector	Beverley Roberts	No.	2122