

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Brewood St Mary and St Chad Church of England First School	
Address	Newport Street, Brewood, Stafford, ST19 9BT
School vision	
<p>'Aim High Believe, Fly High Achieve'</p> <p>Hand in hand we work together to provide a happy, safe and nurturing environment where every child is inspired to love learning, flourish and reach their God given potential.</p> <p>'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint'. Isaiah 40:31</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong Christian vision, together with clearly defined Christian values, give this school its firm foundation. Consequently, members of the school community can articulate how the vision and values positively impact their lives. • Relationships are rooted in the school's Christian values of friendship, peace, thankfulness, respect, courage and hope. As a result of a deep understanding of these, pupils' behaviour is exemplary. This leads to a culture of acceptance which permeates school life, creating a calm and purposeful atmosphere for learning. • The visionary leadership of the school, coupled with well-chosen partnerships, enhances the lives of all who come here. The relationships with the church and the Penk Valley Academy Trust enable the school community to flourish academically and spiritually. • Collective worship enhances the life of the school. The worship council helps plan, deliver and evaluate worship. This helps to inspire, raise spirits and encourage spiritual exploration. • Activities which inspire reflection and give opportunities to explore big questions are carefully planned, enabling pupils to grow spiritually. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop physical spiritual spaces where members of the school community can experience moments of self-directed stillness and reflection. This will deepen and enhance their spiritual experiences. • Reinforce the programme of training and development of staff in the implementation of the RE syllabus. This will further build staff confidence and continue to strengthen pupil outcomes. • Further strengthen the relationship with the church so that continuity is maintained, enabling all members of the school community to benefit spiritually from this strong partnership. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision and values permeate every aspect of life at St Mary and St Chad Church of England First School. The careful layering of vision, values, motto and logo deepen the understanding of the school's Christian foundation. The idea of 'soaring like eagles' is eagerly explained by pupils who see no boundaries to their horizons. They explain that teachers hold</p>	



them in their hands while preparing them to fly off into the world. Consequently, pupils feel safe in school while having a sense of wonder and excitement about their future. Governors and leaders regularly review how the vision is implemented. This ensures the vision is at the heart of all decisions, practices and policies. The school has a firm partnership with the church which leaders are keen to strengthen further. Before joining Penk Valley Academy Trust in 2019, governors and leaders confirmed its values and ethos aligned with the school's. Through regular visits and discussions, the Trust helps ensure the vision is reflected in policies and practice. Regular staff developmental sessions improve knowledge and skills of teachers and so enhance their practice. It also provides background office administrative support which frees leaders' time to concentrate on improving the outcomes for pupils.

The teaching of the school's vision and values is woven into every aspect of school life. Policies and practice ensure the environment is safe and nurturing. Staff strive to ensure all pupils reach their potential. Within lessons, pupils discuss and reflect upon the relevance of the school's values in the wider world, deepening pupils' understanding. For example, when playing, they independently discuss respecting each other to ensure everyone feels happy and safe. Teachers plan for awe and wonder moments within the curriculum and also allow time for spontaneous moments that inspire. This gives pupils time to connect spiritually with nature, art and music. Pupils acknowledge the importance of these times and talk about how they feel a sense of peace. The creation of the new outdoor 'Flying High Quiet Space' by the worship council is in its infancy as a space for quiet reflection. They plan to develop the space further and to educate pupils on its use. This will enable its use to be a place of self-directed reflection and stillness.

Staff wellbeing and professional development are high priorities for governors and leaders. Consequently, there is a strong and stable staff team who support each other and who feel valued. This is mirrored in the care and acceptance of all who come into school. Staff are sensitive to the needs of all families and pupils. Vulnerable pupils and their families are cared for with purpose, dignity and empathy to ensure best outcomes. As a result, the school lives up to its vision of enabling children to flourish.

The values of friendship, peace, thankfulness, respect courage and hope are echoed in the simple set of school rules. Adults model good behaviour which inspires pupils to act similarly. This gives pupils a very good understanding of expectations. Parents describe how they use the school rules of 'Be ready, be safe, be respectful' at home. This enhances pupil's sense of continuity between home and school. As a result, pupils' behaviour is exemplary. There is a calm and purposeful learning environment which helps drive pupils to reach their God given potential.

The rich and varied curriculum extends beyond the school day with a variety of extra-curricular activities. These activities allow pupils to discover and develop their passions and talents. All pupils are supported to 'Aim High Believe' and every child is known and loved and accepted for who they are. The recent redundancies of support staff brought many challenges and emotional upheaval to the school. Despite this, the staff team work together to ensure targeted support is available to those in need.

Worship is the heartbeat of the school, it is part of its daily rhythm and brings a sense of unity. All are welcomed. Worship often takes place in church and church members regularly lead worship in school. Pupils and adults say they value these sessions. Leaders are keen to ensure this firm partnership continues. Worship follows the church calendar as well as exploring the school's vision and values. It is carefully crafted to include times of joy, wonder, stillness, prayer, questioning and challenge. Bible stories relating to the values are well chosen and explored in detail to deepen pupils' understanding. Some pupils talk about having a personal relationship with God. They describe ways in which they have sometimes changed their behaviour as a result of worship. Adults describe how attending worship has developed their own sense of spirituality. Pupils are actively engaged in helping to plan, lead and evaluate worship. The place of prayer is important. They describe how prayer is like a gift which strengthens their friendship with God. Some say it helps them to feel peaceful. As a result, prayer and worship are highly valued and

enrich the lives of many.

Being mindful of the school's context, leaders find ways to increase pupils' global awareness. Resources are well chosen and age appropriate. The exploration of themes such as poverty and conflict, inspire pupils to consider their place in the world and often lead to action. Pupils have a strong sense of justice and are eager to make the world a better place. The school has developed a strong and active partnership with Mission Aviation Fellowship. This helps pupils to understand the issues felt by remote rural communities throughout the world. The school empowers pupils to 'Aim High Believe' when tackling issues that concern them. Consequently, the search for justice goes beyond fundraising, for example, pupils forming litter picking groups to improve the environment.

The sequencing of knowledge, skills and concepts ensures pupils build up their understanding of religious education (RE). There is a wide range of experience in the staff teaching RE with some staff being new to teaching the subject. They are being well supported by other staff members. Pupils enjoy their lessons and like being able to ask questions about life. They are given a safe space to critically reflect on their own religious, spiritual and philosophical convictions. Pupils are developing a good level of subject specific vocabulary to enable them to do this successfully. They have a good knowledge of Bible stories and the Christian faith and can talk about their relevance in today's world. They have a sound understanding of world faiths and can explain the key elements of some of these.

These inspection findings indicate the St Mary and St Chad Church of England First School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling its pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	14 September 2023	URN	147279
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	145
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	Penk Valley Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Sandra Lamond		
Chair	Mark Roberts		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery	No.	2243