

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hall Orchard Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Church Street, Barrow upon Soar, Loughborough, LE12 8HP

School vision

Hall Orchard Church of England Primary is a proud Church of England Academy. Our Christian family encourages those of all faiths and none to value and celebrate our diversity. We grow together as a community of unique individuals, doing everything in love. Our whole school vision is:

- For our children to be confident, ambitious learners who demonstrate the personal values and skills necessary to make a positive contribution to the global community.
- To be an excellent school where all children achieve their best.

This is summed up by the following Bible verse: 'Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.' from Hebrews 10:24. Our vision is perfectly illustrated through the story of The Good Samaritan.

School strengths

- The school Christian vision and values, rooted in biblical understanding, permeate all aspects of school life, so all are able to flourish. The vision drives the work of the school.
- Relationships between all members of the school community are supportive, enabling all to live together well. The approach to behaviour means that all are encouraged to value each other and act with respect. Everyone matters and all are cared for in this school.
- The school is at the heart of the community. The vision is used to underpin the work of the school, with a focus on sharing the values with the whole community. Support for families is integral to the work of the school.
- Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and rooted in the school vision and values. It contributes to the development of pupils and adults spiritual flourishing. It is lived out further in the classroom through their recording and reflections.
- Religious education (RE) lessons are a safe place for pupils to explore their own and others' beliefs. Pupils have a good understanding of Christianity and of other major world faiths.

Areas for development

- Develop a shared language and understanding of spirituality so that teachers can plan and provide progressively deeper experiences across the curriculum.
- Strengthen pupils' understanding of justice and responsibility so that all pupils are able to have the opportunity to challenge injustice for themselves.

Inspection findings

Hall Orchard is a welcoming and inclusive Church school where all are happy to belong.

The distinctly Christian vision is rooted in biblical understanding. It is promoted by leadership at all levels and is the driving force that underpins the work of the school. The school has recently been on a journey in renewing their role as a Church school. This led to the successful revision of the school Christian vision, which has been simplified. The Bible verse in the vision is at the heart of all that the school does. Carefully chosen Christian values underpin the vision and are reflected in the school's chosen parable, the Good Samaritan. These values are lived out by the whole school community. Governors know the school well, and monitor provision, including RE and collective worship. The vision has a clear impact on the daily life of the school, enabling all to flourish.

The school's inclusive approach, shaped by the vision, ensures that pupils and adults are treated well. Sensitive care for those with learning, or social and communication needs, is seen at every turn. Staff talk about 'meeting children where they are' in order to help them flourish. The 'rainbow room' and the 'hive' support pupils and families, including the most vulnerable, providing a comfortable environment for discussion and interventions. The policy 'promoting positive relationships and behaviour' is aligned with the Christian vision and values. This ensures that there is a safe, caring environment with a commitment to the mental health and wellbeing of all. As a result, pupils and adults feel safe and know that leaders will help them. Some pupils are trained as mental health champions. These pupils are clear that their role is to 'walk alongside those who need help' and it is evident that this happens. Pupils are clear that they should show the school values 'to be our best self'. They talk confidently about how the values help them know how to treat others well. Pastoral care is a strength of the school.

Driven by the vision's biblical underpinning, the school expects everyone to act with responsibility towards others. Through exploring British values alongside the school Christian values, meaningful opportunities are given for pupils to consider difference and diversity. The impact of this is evident as people are accepted for the person that they are, leading to a culture where all are treated well. Pupils are encouraged to explore ethical choices. Inspired by the vision, they are confident to 'live the values' through charity work both within and beyond the school. For example, each class is working to 'twin' each school toilet with one in another country. However, pupils are not always clear as to how they can understand and promote justice and responsibility for themselves.

The curriculum reflects the school vision and is designed to inspire children to strive for success and to flourish. The focus on individual needs, and understanding that 'nothing works for everyone', means that learning is adapted to the needs of the pupil. Effective links are made between the RE curriculum and other curriculum areas. For example, learning about the holocaust and Judaism have been brought together in order to enhance children's learning. Spirituality is evident in actions around the school. However, the school does not yet have a shared language around spirituality to offer deeper experiences for spiritual growth across the curriculum. Leaders are exploring moments in the curriculum where pupils can think about the world around them. The art and RE leaders have worked together to develop a spirituality-based arts programme that reflects the vision of the school through shared artwork.

Partnerships are strong between the school and the community. The spiritual arts programme encourages links with the village, including a joint community and school 'tree of love'. Artwork is shared with the locality via newsletters, in village shops and in the church. The school has a good link with the diocese. There has been benefit from training for both collective worship and RE. The RE lead is working with the diocese to take the lead on developing collective worship within the local hub of schools. There is a strong partnership with the local church, who regularly lead worship, as do

leaders from the local Baptist and Methodist churches.

RE is well-planned and resourced. It is led by a knowledgeable subject lead who provides good support for staff. Pupils have a good understanding of Christianity. They recognise that they learn RE so that they can respect and understand the beliefs of others. They explore a range of world faiths and talk confidently about what they have learnt. The subject makes a strong contribution to flourishing and to how pupils connect with, and are interested in, others. Older pupils enjoy discussions about belief. For example, a Year 6 pupil, talking about humanism, stated that ‘I think it is a philosophy, a code for living, rather than a religion.’ Pupils rightly say that RE is a safe space to discuss differing views and that they learn to disagree well. Recently, staff have begun considering worldviews, including exploring Christianity as a world faith. This is enabling pupils to better recognise the diverse world in which they live.

Collective worship is firmly rooted in the Christian vision. It is inclusive and invitational, enabling pupils to reflect thoughtfully about the application of their values and Bible stories. Worship is carefully and effectively planned to be biblically based, exploring the school’s vision and values. The school’s adopted Bible story is revisited each half-term, with a focus on the school value for that moment. As a result, pupils know the story well and reflect on the school values in its context. The daily act of worship is central to the life of the school and contributes to children flourishing spiritually. Pupils clearly recognise the value of collective worship, saying that it is a time to ‘reflect and calm down’. The spiritual council take a lead in the celebration of key festivals and have helped to develop the peace garden. This is a place where pupils spend valuable time reflecting on the school values and vision. They successfully worked together to write the school prayer that reflects the school vision. They work in partnership with a faith council from another local Church school, sharing ideas and sharing in worship to drive developments in pupil-led worship in the school. There are opportunities to reflect, linked to the Christian values through reflection areas in the classrooms. Reflection books are used effectively to allow pupils to reflect on the weekly collective worship theme. These contain thoughtful and thought-provoking responses.

The inspection findings indicate that Hall Orchard Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	2 October 2023	URN	140230
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	518
Diocese	Leicester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Stephen Dunn		
Chair	Victoria Bowman		
Inspector	Megan Davis	No.	2212