



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

Stafford St John's Church of England Primary Academy	
Address	Weston Road, Stafford, ST16 3RZ

### School vision

We value and welcome all God's children to the St. John's Church of England family; to flourish happily and safely in our Christian environment. We aim to empower our pupils to be respectful, resilient, and motivated global citizens who are challenged to soar whilst aspiring to be all they are created to be.

'They will soar on wings like eagles' Isaiah 40:31

### School strengths

- St. John's is effective in living out its Christian vision through strong relationships. The nurturing staff work very well as a team, inspiring all to soar on wings like eagles.
- The committed leaders and staff team are key to raising pupil aspirations. The vision and its biblical underpinning are well known. This informs decision making putting pupils at the heart of this community as respectful, resilient and motivated global citizens.
- Pupils are engaged in a religious education (RE) curriculum that supports their character development. They have a wide knowledge of the religions they study.
- Relationships between all members of this school community are extremely supportive. Consequently, pupils build up their resilience, keep trying when facing challenges and behave very well.
- The relationships between church and school are very strong and effective in supporting every child at St. John's. Collective worship is enriched by the combined expertise and dedication of the leaders.

### Areas for development

- Extend the robustness of church school monitoring by leaders at all levels to focus on the evidence of all flourishing.
- Establish a coherent approach to all aspects of spiritual development so that it is embedded throughout the curriculum.
- Further develop and enhance pupils' experiences of social justice, beyond charitable giving, so that they can become advocates of change.

### Inspection findings

St. John's is a welcoming and inclusive church school. Leaders, with the input of all, have revised and enhanced the vision. As a result, they effectively support and meet the needs of the local community. 'Respectful, resilient and motivated global citizens who are challenged to soar' is lived out by pupils and adults. It is fully embedded as a way of life. The values are used to ensure pupils aspire to be all they are created to be. They are encouraged to be resilient when they are facing any challenges. Pupils know that by overcoming these difficulties, they learn new skills for life.

Aspirations to be the best and soar, with everyone included, is an essential focus of the leaders. There is common language and expectations that all will achieve success.

Leaders provide strong support for families. Success is not just in academic terms but in keeping with the vision, in all aspects of life. Pupils are very well nurtured during their time at school because staff foster strong relationships with parents. They rightly speak very highly of the staff team. Each child is well known and cared for as an individual here. Pupils show kindness to their peers, sharing celebrations of success together. They enjoy receiving 'respect pounds' linked to their respect curriculum, which they spend on treats such as trips or inflatables. Everyone behaves well and all talk about being courteous to each other. Teachers always help them to resolve any issues. Pupils can use the nurture room if they wish to. Adults and pupils feel respected, valued and treated well.

Leaders provide strong support for their staff team. All speak highly of working in partnership with schools as part of St. Chad's Multi Academy Trust. The opportunities for meeting in networks and supporting each other is greatly valued. Through working with other schools in the MAT there has been a significant impact on professional development opportunities.

Collective worship is an integral part of school life. Planning links clearly to the vision and Bible stories are used to illustrate this. Adults and pupils grow in their understanding of biblical teaching. Reflection areas in each classroom are used during class worship. Pupils say a prayer before lunch, end of the school day and worship team share those they have written. Time is provided for careful reflection and responses. Pupils are proud to be members of the worship team and enjoy contributing to this aspect in school. Worship is enhanced by the strong relationships with the church and the contribution that is made. Their weekly involvement has a very positive impact and ensures that learners have a good knowledge of Bible stories. Pupils have an age-appropriate understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling them to develop spiritually. They enjoy celebrating with the eagle awards that recognise a value that has been the focus for the week being exemplified. Pupils and adults show respect for the feelings and value of others. Leaders regularly evaluate worship. Their feedback prompts improvements, keeping it relevant and up to date. Rich opportunities for pupil and adult spiritual development is evident in collective worship. However, wider opportunities for spontaneous prayer and reflection throughout the school day are underdeveloped.

Relationships with the church are very strong and highly regarded by all. Pupils enjoy visiting at key times in the year, most recently to celebrate Harvest. The clergy are fully involved in school life and enjoy sharing stories with the younger pupils each week. Church leaders effectively contribute to worship and various after school clubs. The church has a relationship with every pupil at St. John's. They also support in the teaching of RE and visits throughout the year. This leads to pupils having deep experiences of places of worship and flourishing spiritually.

Governors champion the vision and give examples of how this is central to their decision making. Along with the leaders, they focus on putting pupils at the centre of everything. They are updated with progress against planned actions to continue to grow as a Church school. They hold the leadership team to account. However, the robustness of the monitoring by leaders at all levels is an aspect for development. Staff are confident that the vision has enabled the school to improve. The governors are regular visitors to the school and know it well. This results in strong and effective relationships. They care deeply about adults and pupils' wellbeing.

The school supports several charities including the local foodbank and 'House of Bread'. Pupils were delighted to share a letter they had received from Sir David Attenborough responding to their questions about animals. This has encouraged them to consider the impact they could have in the wider world protecting animals. Older pupils have clearly identified the need to reduce food waste at

lunchtimes. They had written to the parents in the newsletter and shared the menus. This has led to a marked reduction in the waste as better choices are made at lunch with support from home. Injustice is challenged by all in the community. The eco warriors are also very active in bringing about improvements for the school. However, pupils' understanding that they can be advocates of change at a global level, is in the early stages of development.

The school provides a broad and balanced RE curriculum that prepares pupils for life in an ever-changing world. It allows pupils to ask 'big questions' to develop their own understanding in line with the vision. Pupils consider key religious concepts from multiple perspectives, such as comparing festivals. They are rightly generally enthused by their RE lessons. Highly valued RE days result in a love of learning. As a result, they speak well about different cultures and traditions. Their knowledge of these promotes an understanding, acceptance and respect for others. As a result, pupils confidently make positive life choices in this safe and inclusive environment.

The inspection findings indicate that St. John's Church Of England Primary Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	2 October 2023	URN	143348
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	403
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	St Chad's Academies Trust		
Principal	Victoria Evans		
Chair	Sarah Cockshott		
Inspector	Sara Goddard	No.	976