

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Madresfield Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	40 Madresfield Village, Malvern, WR13 5AA

School vision
<p>At Madresfield we are a caring inclusive school, where everyone is welcomed as Jesus welcomed all. We work closely with all stakeholders to support our children in achieving their God given potential. Inspired by Psalm 119:105 "God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light to our path". As a school we aim to:</p> <p>Ignite: to cultivate a love for learning and awe and respect for God's world.</p> <p>Illuminate: to trust in God to guide us and develop our wisdom and compassion as we journey through school.</p> <p>Inspire: to help our children to shine as we celebrate their successes and help them to develop into beacons of hope for others within our school and wider communities.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school's carefully conceived Christian vision shines out in the commitment of all staff to ensuring every pupil will flourish. As a result, all pupils, including the most vulnerable and/or disadvantaged are able to experience success. The Christian vision shapes the learning experiences for all pupils. The associated school values embed a deep understanding. Accordingly, pupils learn how to respect one another, and how to believe in themselves. Collective worship is a strength and mainstay of the school. It is creatively inclusive, ensuring that everyone can participate. Its inspiring content enhances the reflective and spiritual life of both pupils and adults. Relationships and provision are enriched as a result of the Christian vision. This creates a culture of kinship, within and beyond the school, ensuring everyone feels valued and supported. Effective leadership in Religious Education (RE) ensures this subject supports pupils to explore and understand themselves, one another, and their place in the world.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable pupils across the school to experience challenge in RE to enhance their knowledge, understanding and skills across a range of faiths and worldviews. Explore how the Christian vision can inspire pupils to seek justice for others, and see themselves as people who can bring about positive change. Ensure that embedded in the curriculum are further opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually.

Inspection findings

The life force of Madresfield Church of England Primary School emanates from its Christian vision of being guided by the word of God. The school community has collectively taken part in a review of this vision and feel a strong affiliation to it. The vision now energises and propels the school through its most challenging times. Pupils and adults alike appreciate it how it offers a sense of renewal. It creates a vibrant community of shared belief and commitment to service. The recent appointment of the head of school has brought stability and progress. Her leadership inspires a culture of learning with love and hopefulness. The richness of relationships between staff and pupils is testament to this. The associated school values are rooted in the vision, drawing this diverse community together in a shared mission to serve the common good. Each value of love, hope forgiveness, joy, and courage is exemplified through a Bible story. Beautiful depictions of these throughout the school help to illustrate the relevance of Christian values as a living reality. Positive and purposeful relationships with the trust, local church and diocese ensure the school is enfolded in support and care. Leaders and governors engage in honest and accurate self-evaluation, creating a progressive forward momentum.

The Christian vision is the mainstay of the school's work. The aligned vision of the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust, inspired by John 10:10, living life in all its fullness, strengthens the school's purpose. The trust promotes the sharing of staff expertise to support pupils who are deemed to be vulnerable and/or disadvantaged. Leaders take bold decisions to make improvements, such as a sensory room and outdoor learning area, to benefit pupils. The school's curriculum provision is fine-tuned so that it meets the diverse needs of all the pupils. However, opportunities for pupils to develop spirituality as an intrinsic part of the school day are currently under-developed.

Collective worship is the lynchpin of life at Madresfield school. High quality provision enables pupils to deepen their understanding of the Christian message. A varied pattern of worship over the term involves members of the community, including the vicar and Open the Book team. Celebration of the liturgical year enables pupils to appreciate the Anglican tradition. Carefully planned as an outworking of the Christian vision, worship is framed by opening and closing blessings. The school prayer also reflects the words of the vision. Respectful space is given for personal spiritual responses. Pupils' questions and reflections are encouraged and nurtured.

Worship life is inclusive, with bespoke provision for those pupils who find the communal act challenging. Invitational worship meaningfully involves pupils and engages them, helping them to see the relevance of biblical teachings. Pupils are actively involved in worship and take part in its delivery, with worship leaders awarding 'gems' for responses and engagement. Meaningful opportunities to reflect on the meaning and mystery of life are further enhanced by planned experiences through the year. Favourite events for pupils include taking part in the Malvern Priory Life Path and the biennial ISing Pop concert.

The Christian vision enables this small school to provide effectively for all its learners. As a priority, pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, are supported to integrate and experience success. The school's leadership has ensured financial investment to improve the quality of curriculum provision, for example in high quality texts for reading and writing. The school's vision guarantees a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well. Discrete support is put swiftly in place for families who are struggling. As a result, all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged and/or vulnerable are able to flourish. Good mental health is central to the school's work in both policy and practice, creating a culture of enhanced wellbeing. Staff appreciate this, citing it as an important reason for their desire to join the school. They feel upheld by the Christian

vision. The resulting ethos is inclusive, equitable and dignifying.

The school's vision and values inspire good personal development in pupils. They are delighted to take on roles of responsibility within the school. Behaviour is good and pupils customarily treat one another with kindness and respect. A culture of justice, fuelled by a sense of mutual respect, characterises the school. Nonetheless, pupils' understanding and experience of promoting justice is less well developed. Partnerships with the local church and community organisations are extremely important to the school and impact positively on people's lives. Pupils' care and thoughtfulness are evident, enabling them to support one another and resolve issues. Parents likewise feel upheld, and attribute this directly to the school's values. Ignited by the Christian vision, staff are vigilant in safeguarding and take courageous decisions to support the pupils in their care. The sense of Christian vocation is transformative for families and pupils.

RE is a growing strength, and a direct expression of the school's Christian foundation. The curriculum ensures that pupils can look beyond themselves and ask big questions that concern them. Lessons encourage pupils to make connections between their learning and their own experiences. Consequently, pupils see RE as fascinating and relevant. RE has a high profile in the curriculum, and the provision meets the requirements of the Church of England. Although the curriculum is diverse, well-sequenced and well-balanced, it is not consistently challenging. The RE leader and staff have benefitted from high quality training through the diocese and involvement of the local vicar. Regular monitoring and evaluation feed into planning and delivery, and there is a culture of continuous improvement. In consequence, the quality of teaching in RE is good and pupils make good progress. Progress and attainment is tracked carefully, and assessment informs teaching and learning. Pupils speak movingly about how RE gives them insight into their own lives, and a window on to the world.

These inspection findings indicate that Madresfield Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church School and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	13 November 2023	URN	144259
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	99
Diocese	Worcester		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust		
Head of School	Emma Rose		
Chair	Alan Soper		
Inspector	Bridget Knight	No.	876