



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Rugeley Churchfield Church of England Primary Academy	
Address	Sandy Lane, Rugeley, WS15 2LB

School vision

WALK IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD

Walking together in the light of the Lord, we aim to create a supportive and safe environment where we encourage each other to be the best we can be. At Churchfield we learn to take pride in our successes and aspire to make a positive difference for ourselves, the local community, and the wider world.

School strengths

- The Christian vision is the firm foundation of the school. Governors, staff and pupils have a deep understanding of how this is lived within school. This means the vision unites everyone in a common purpose to walk in the light of the Lord.
- Staff tirelessly and compassionately support pupils and their families. Inventive solutions are created to ensure help is there for those who need it. Consequently, school is a beacon of hope for many.
- The school’s Christian values form the basis for building positive relationships. Pupils and staff treat each other with kindness and forgiveness. Therefore, an atmosphere of mutual respect resonates throughout the school.
- Collective worship is valued as a time to come together and to consider one's place in the world. Reflection, celebration, praise and prayer are important components. For this reason, worship helps enhance the spiritual development of all.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum has been carefully constructed. For this reason, pupils are confident in discussing their own views and the beliefs of others.

Areas for development

- Establish a coherent approach to all aspects of pupils’ spiritual development, especially independent contemplation and stillness. This is so that pupils have every opportunity to deepen their understanding of their own spirituality.
- Develop opportunities for pupils to engage in social action in the wider world. Thus, enabling them to believe they can become global agents for change.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision underpins life at Churchfield Church of England Primary Academy. As a consequence, Christian love permeates every aspect of life. The school is seen as a beacon of hope and a place of safety, nurture and comfort for those who walk through its doors. The Christian vision, chosen to reflect the strengths and needs of its community, is lived by adults and pupils alike. Leaders and governors ensure it is reflected in all policies and decisions. It fuels the ambition that all will find their way in the world and become a leading light for others.

The school is supported by strong partnerships with St Chad's Academies Trust and Diocese of Lichfield. The trust encourages collaboration while ensuring schools retain their own identity. School leaders across the trust meet regularly to share ideas and develop strategies. This means that leaders feel supported and also challenged to ensure their school is the best it can be. The trust and Lichfield diocese provide a rich variety of professional development opportunities for staff, leaders and governors. Consequently, there is a constant reviewing and adapting of practice and policies ensuring pupils receive relevant, exciting and challenging opportunities for learning.

The Christian vision is the key to the decisions leaders, staff and governors make about learning opportunities. They are determined to enrich their pupils lives and so plan learning activities to open up their world. During their time in school, pupils experience a wide variety of visits. These include going to the theatre, places of worship, local farms, and concerts. These experiences extend pupils' knowledge and encourage them to explore the wider world. The many after school clubs enable pupils to discover their interests and develop skills and talents. This helps them grow in confidence to follow their dreams.

Pupils' well-being is a priority for staff at Churchfield. They are keen to ensure that all are ready to learn and feel safe to do so. There are many spaces within school that pupils can go to feel safe. The nurture room is an oasis of peace and tranquillity. They are able to explore their feelings while taking part in activities which promote a sense of calm. This means that anger is softened, frustration calmed and a readiness for learning restored. Throughout the school, Christian values play a key part in formulating an understanding of how to build good relationships. There is a strong sense of respect and kindness for one and other. Pupils appreciate and celebrate difference in faiths and cultures. As one pupil explained, 'our beliefs may be different but our values are the same.' Consequently, there is a strong sense of community where the exemplary behaviour reflects the school's Christian values and vision.

The exploration of Christian values extends beyond the school walls. The school is a centre of compassion and local action. The weekly food bank helps families in the local area and also aids the environment by reducing food waste. Pupils are encouraged to look for ways to help improve their world. They understand a small act of kindness can be very powerful. They are keen to improve their local environment. The worship team is taking a lead in preparing a litter pick in the town. However, projects are based in the local area and do not extend nationally and internationally. This reduces the opportunities for pupils to see themselves of agents for change on a more global level.

The spiritual development of everyone is an important consideration for leaders and governors. Many teaching and learning activities in class, including circle times, discussions and worship, encourage pupils to explore their spirituality. This means they are growing in confidence when describing their feelings and beliefs. Each class has a reflection area which is often dedicated to one of the school's Christian values. The spiritual needs of those of all faiths and none are considered. Areas for prayer are provided for those of world religions other than Christianity. Collective worship plays a major role in encouraging everyone to be still and reflect. The partnership with the local church enhances the experience of worship. The main Christian festivals are celebrated in the

church building. Members of the local church also regularly attend and lead worship in school. This means that pupils are exposed to many different ways of worshipping. The pupil worship team take their role very seriously in helping their peers to grow in spirit. The team members are passionate about bringing the school's Christian vision and values to life. They independently plan and deliver worship centred around the value of the month. They set the school community challenges related to their message. Pupils who show they have gone above and beyond in living the value are celebrated and rewarded. Consequently they have a deep understanding of the Christian values. showing the impact of worship extends well beyond its allocated time. However, there are no dedicated spaces for pupils to go to for spontaneous moments of stillness and contemplation during their free time. This means that pupils have little opportunity to independently develop their own spiritual awareness.

The partnership with Lichfield Diocese has helped the school craft an RE curriculum that is inspiring and challenging. There is a careful sequencing of knowledge, skills and concepts which develops a deep understanding of Christianity. Pupils learn about world religions. This means they have a sound knowledge of Bible stories and recognise that sacred scripture is important in all religions. Pupils explore how following a faith impacts lives, and the rewards and challenges this may bring. They show an appreciation that living life with faith may be difficult and have a deep respect for those who do this. The rich variety of learning experiences enhance pupils' understanding of world views. Pupils enjoy their RE lessons and like to discuss the big questions about life. As a result, they are confident in exploring their own religious, spiritual and philosophical convictions.

The inspection findings indicate that Churchfield Church of England Primary Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	1 December 2023	URN	144386
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	132
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	St Chad's Academies Trust		
Executive Principal	Chris Dobson		
Chair	Anthony Orlik		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery	No.	2243