



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Sir John Offley Church of England VC Primary School Madeley	
Address	Izaak Walton Way, Madeley, Crewe, CW3 9PJ

School vision
<p>‘Through God all things are possible.’ Matthew 19:26 With love we will nurture all to be emotionally secure; with forgiveness all will know that every day is a new beginning and with aspiration all will strive for success.</p>

School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong Christian vision permeates all aspects of school life. It is the driving force of the school and unites everyone in a common purpose. As a result, pupils and staff flourish. • Aspirations for all are raised through the promotion of the Christian vision. This enables everyone to have a strong belief in themselves and their ability to achieve their hopes and dreams. • The spirit of forgiveness stems from the Christian vision and leads to exemplary behaviour of the pupils. This creates a calm and purposeful learning atmosphere, reflective of mutual respect and acceptance. • Collective worship, enhanced by the strong partnership with the church, is at the heart of school life. Leaders, including the worship team, ensure it responds to the needs of those it serves and is welcoming to all. It challenges and inspires and allows spiritual curiosity to blossom. • The thoughtful design of the religious education (RE) curriculum ensures time is given for pupils to ponder big questions. School is a safe space for them to explore their own spirituality and the beliefs of others. As a result, pupils have a deep understanding of faith and world views.

Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce the programme of training for new governors. This is so that they have confidence in challenging and supporting the school in regards to its Christian distinctiveness. • Devise and implement a plan of succession for the worship team. This is so that pupils are ready to lead, plan and evaluate worship. • Further develop outdoor reflection spaces to maximise pupil's opportunities for contemplation and stillness.

Inspection findings
<p>Sir John Offley is a haven of safety and calm. Through careful monitoring and liaising with staff, governors and leaders ensure the vision drives decision and policy making. This means the Christian vision and associated values of love, forgiveness and aspiration permeate every aspect of life in the school. Successful partnerships with the local church and Lichfield Diocese help to ensure the school remains true to its Christian foundations. Relationships are built upon a deep understanding of</p>

Christian love and all are cherished as God's children. Consequently, there is a loving and caring atmosphere based on respect and acceptance of everyone. There is a strong belief in the motto 'Through God all things are possible' and aspirations for all are high. As a result, pupils and staff are ambitious for themselves and the school is a happy and thriving place.

The implementation of the Christian vision is instrumental in promoting high aspirations for all. The inspiring leadership team is ambitious for all and look for every opportunity to promote success. The governing body challenge and support to ensure decisions are implemented effectively and remain true to the vision. Learning opportunities, including extra-curricular activities, are carefully crafted and are reviewed regularly. This ensures they suit the specific needs of each individual. Staff relentlessly search for the best ways to enable pupils to overcome any barriers to learning. They seek advice and form partnerships with specialist organisations to ensure the most suitable support for those in need. Staff are constantly planning activities to expand horizons. Trips to the theatre, museums, farms and stately homes take pupils beyond their known experiences. They learn about the wider world and the opportunities available beyond their own community. This helps pupils to have high ambitions for themselves and to believe that anything is possible.

The school's values of love and forgiveness are the foundation for building relationships. Staff support each other and describe the school as a family. They are appreciative of leaders who try to ensure a healthy work-life balance. These caring relationships filter down to the pupils who learn from the adults. They practice forgiveness and reconciliation when they fall out. They recognise their friendships are important and can be made stronger through discussion. This creates an understanding of how to develop healthy, positive relationships. Hence pupils treat each other with kindness and respect and their behaviour is exemplary.

Leaders further develop the understanding of Christian love through the promotion of courageous advocacy. Pupils are encouraged to act when they see injustice and to support those in the world who struggle. Many of these actions start with what can be seen in the local community. A litter pick in the playground led to some pupils continuing in the village in their own time. Pupils talk with pride about sponsoring a child in Haiti. They had become concerned about children living there when studying the country and decided to try to help. They consider Ley to be part of their community and are keen to help improve her life chances. Because of these and many other opportunities, pupils are beginning to see themselves as agents for change. They believe they can and should make a difference in the world.

Collective worship is valued by the school community as a time to come together. The worship team are trained well and take an active role in its planning and delivery. The roles are taken by Year 6 pupils who begin each year afresh. Therefore, it can take time at the beginning of each year for roles to become established. Worship is planned around the Christian calendar but also responds to world events and the needs of the school community. Staff and pupils attend worship together and enjoy the time of stillness and reflection as well as praise and celebration. Its impact goes beyond the hall doors as discussions begun in worship will often continue in the classroom. This allows pupils to ask questions relating to their own beliefs. Therefore, pupils are curious about faith and confident in discussing their own spirituality. The strong partnership with the local church brings new and exciting ideas for different ways to express belief. Prayer space days give pupils and staff opportunities to explore new ways to communicate with God. Pupils rightly describe prayer as having many functions. Some describe having a personal relationship with God which has helped them through difficult times. Reflection areas in each classroom mirror the themes being explored in worship. These areas are valued by those who use them as a place to find calm. There are also spaces outside for reflection but these are not as well developed and tend to not be used in the winter months. Consequently, the opportunities for reflection in non-guided times such as playtimes and lunchtimes are limited.



The sequencing of knowledge, skills and concepts in RE ensures pupils build a deep understanding of Christianity. The partnership with the Lichfield Diocese helps enable leaders to create learning opportunities which inspire and challenge. Hinduism, Judaism and Islam are studied alongside Christianity giving pupils a knowledge and understanding of a range of world religions. Rich learning opportunities also encourage pupils in their awareness of a range of worldviews. Pupils enjoy their RE lessons and like to discuss big questions about life. They feel safe exploring their own religious, spiritual and philosophical convictions. They have a sound knowledge of Bible stories and recognise that sacred scripture is important in all religions.

These inspection findings indicate that Sir John Offley Church of England (VC) Primary School is living up to its foundations as a Church school and is enabling its pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	14 November 2023	URN	124289
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	141
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Sally Inskip-Ward		
Chair	Ed Jervis		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery	No.	2243