

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church Church of England VA Primary School Oldbury	
Address	Albert Street, Oldbury, Birmingham, B69 4DE
School vision	
<p>Let your light SHINE - Matthew 5:16.</p> <p>We value each person simply for who they are and the gifts they have. Each of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace (1 Peter 4:10). Being made in the image of God, we enable ourselves to flourish holistically following the examples Jesus provided of love, hope and generosity within the school community and beyond to live life in all its fullness.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults and pupils are united as a learning community securely grounded in the Christian foundations, vision and values. There is exceptional nurture and inclusion of all pupils, notably those who are particularly vulnerable. • The curriculum enriches the learning of pupils and families. Innovative home-school links are effective. This is evident in the high levels of engagement with activities beyond the school day. • Religious education (RE) is a significant strength of this Church school. Subject leadership is outstanding. Consequently teaching and learning are of an impressive standard. • Partnerships with families, the local church, which is based in school, community and diocese are trusting and mutually supportive. This is because the school 'shines' and illuminates the lives of others. • Collective worship empowers adults and pupils to consider life's 'big questions'. Worship increases the sense of belonging to a community that values 'for who they are'. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders, including governors, to implement systems that monitor the impact of the Christian vision. This is so their evaluations explicitly direct the ongoing development of the school. • Consolidate and extend the shared language of spirituality, in order that pupils and adults express their spiritual flourishing. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Christ Church is a school that nurtures individuals and upholds them through good times and bad. The effect of this learning community is to be a light that casts away darkness. Leaders, staff and pupils take inspiration from the teachings of Jesus, expressed in the Bible teachings of the disciples Matthew, Peter and John. Consequently, the Christian vision focuses on the needs and gifts of each person. Adults live out the vision. They give of their time and expertise with generosity and grace.</p>	

While leaders know the school, its community and needs well, their work to note the impact of the Christian vision is informal and not systematic. This means that aspects of the school as a Church school are not evaluated or clearly informing development plans. Leaders do, however, act on feedback from pupils. For example, revisiting the vision to make the wording easier to recall for younger members in the school community.

As a result of the Christian vision, leaders welcome pupils with additional and complex needs. Staff are skilled at supporting these needs. Known as 'focus provision', two learning bases provide a safe and nurturing space for vulnerable pupils to engage in social and learning activities. Staff in this provision are well-supported with training and guidance. In the spirit of inclusion, wherever possible, pupils from the focus provision join their peers in lessons, playtimes and special events. Pupils in the mainstream classes remember friends in the focus provision, for example sharing birthday treats. In this way, 'hope' and 'generosity' are shown.

Key to the success of this Church school are partnerships with families, the local church and community. Its shared site with 'the SHINE community centre' makes for a unique setting where learning is for life, not just school hours. The use of a room in school to host the parish church creates a special bond with parishioners. Families trust the school. They are grateful for the sensitive support given to them as well as their children. Communication with parents is regular and informative. Staff and pupils conducted a 'poverty proofing' audit. As a result, a free uniform bank is available. Staff, and indeed pupils, serve families in need through the food bank. Following the example of the school, families support fundraising events for charities, both locally and further afield. Demonstrating the vision, the school council led a campaign for parts of the world affected by natural disasters. Pupils are acutely aware of social injustice and global issues. They have the confidence to speak out. As well as taking action to alleviate food poverty, they astutely make the links between cost of living issues. Pupils comment, 'No one should choose to heat or eat'.

The curriculum is based on the Christian vision. Lessons and extra-curricular activities enrich the learning experience. Music is an especially joyful part of each day. Songs echo and smiles 'shine' around the building. In the focus provision, song nourishes spiritual and personal growth. Leaders take ethical decisions, such as access to music lessons for pupils who are disadvantaged. Combined with activities that are based on sensory needs, the school curriculum ensures pupils develop their skills in key areas, like communication and reading. Leaders are committed to improving access to a range of books that accurately reflect the diversity of the area. Pupils are delighted to share these books at home. Parents and siblings appreciate the school's generosity and thoughtfulness in providing resources for each pupil. For example, the supply of a pencil case and stationary for every pupil.

Adult wellbeing is of paramount importance. Staff are extremely well-supported to develop their skills, knowledge and expertise. For example, making excellent use of the high quality training from the diocese to develop their teaching of RE. There is a culture of kindness, where staff support each other. Members of staff confirm that leaders are approachable and compassionate. Staff flourish spiritually through the use of an online prayer facility.

RE is exciting and inspires pupils to ponder big questions. The subject is exceptionally well-led. Christ Church is a flagship school for the diocese. Other schools visit to learn about strong practice in RE. Teaching and learning are closely monitored and pupil progress is accurately assessed. The curriculum reflects the range of faith traditions and worldviews present in school. The school voluntarily contributes to a diocesan pilot in teaching about global Christianity. In this way, Christ Church is influential and 'shines' beyond its own community. Pupils are highly articulate and thoughtful, eager to share their views and knowledge. Conversations with a range of ages affirm the importance and enthusiasm they have for the subject. Pupils take pride in their written work and

cite how the creative and enquiry-led aspects of RE are enjoyable. RE widens their cultural horizons. Pupils are confident to state how respect and understanding of others' views are vital in our modern society.

Collective worship is central to spiritual flourishing. It unites the school community and contributes to 'life in all its fullness'. Pupils and adults look forward to coming together. The school anthem promotes and celebrates the Christian vision. Written by pupils and staff, it epitomises the spirit of Christ Church. In worship, pupils reflect on the Bible stories that are meaningful to them, like the parable of the Good Samaritan. This helps them to understand diversity in the world. Learners in the focus provision attend whole school or class worship, as their needs allow. Worship is carefully planned to honour the foundations of the school. The school marks the main Christian festivals, so that pupils are familiar with Anglican traditions of worship. Leaders are making good progress with integrating prayer across the day. Parents and pupils appreciate the new 'prayer bags' that may be taken home. These help pupils and families learn to reflect. In nursery, children use a toy lamb as a focus for prayer and 'talking to God'. This demonstrates the insightful way younger children engage with worship. Pupils are developing their skills to spend time in quiet contemplation. The practice of using their fingers to structure reflection has a nourishing, spiritual effect. At present, a shared understanding and language of spirituality is not in place. Nevertheless, through the Christian vision of nurture, pupils and adults at Christ Church shine their light and share the gifts they have together.

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

Information			
Inspection date	26 January 2024	URN	103997
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	396
Diocese	Birmingham		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Michaela Chapman		
Chair	Neil Griffiths		
Inspector	Allyson Taylor	No.	768