



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

Canons Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Derwent Road, Bedworth, CV12 8RT

School vision
<p>Our vision is theologically rooted in John 10:10, aiming to prepare all children to 'live life in all its fulness'. We recognise all pupils as unique; made in God's image. Our high aspirations for pupils enable them to foster a love of learning and opportunities to develop God given talents. Our broad curriculum equips pupils with skills and knowledge for their next steps. This includes overcoming challenges, making good choices, keeping safe, happy and healthy whilst seeing themselves as change makers. Promotion of self-belief, potential barrier removal and ensuring equity of opportunity is paramount to 'living life in all its fulness'.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through following the Christian vision of 'Life in all its fulness', pupils and staff have high aspirations for themselves and others. A strong culture of care and support enables pupils and adults to live well together.</li> <li>• The development of the school curriculum and behaviour management policy clearly reflect its Christian vision. This inspires pupils to seek opportunities to take responsibility and to be advocates in the school community.</li> <li>• Collective worship is planned effectively by adults and pupils, and is well supported by the local church community. Pupils are challenged to reflect on biblical teachings and are inspired to follow the school's values.</li> <li>• A continual drive to improve enables the school to establish an effective curriculum that meets the needs of its pupils. Therefore, from varied start points, they are able to flourish and are treated with equity.</li> <li>• Inspirational leadership and an effective curriculum ensures that religious education (RE) is enjoyed by pupils. It is prioritised within the school curriculum and enables pupils explore deep concepts and share their beliefs with confidence.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed a deeper understanding of spiritual development within the school curriculum. This is to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to grow as reflective learners.</li> <li>• Build on the strengths of the RE curriculum by refining assessment practices to more fully inform teaching and learning.</li> </ul>
Inspection findings
<p>The Canons Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is highly effective as a Church school. Its Christian vision shapes its aspirations for all pupils to 'live life in all its fulness'. This vision is true to the school's foundation to support disadvantaged families. Generous investment in pastoral care enables the most vulnerable pupils to progress well. Parents describe how staff meet needs in times</p>

of difficulty, which demonstrates how the vision is helping to overcome challenges to learning. The vision and values of the school are generated from an understanding of the parable of the good shepherd. Pupils articulate this vision, showing they know that with God's love and the support of staff they are safe and valued. Golden rules based on respect are lived out well by pupils and behaviour is impressive. Adults show compassion and care to each other and value their supportive school community. Pupils share great enthusiasm in describing their teachers and how well their needs are supported, demonstrating the school's vision in action.

Inspirational leadership within the school establishes high expectation and aspirations. As a result, pupils follow a rich curriculum that enables them to gain skills and opportunities for life. Pupils achieve well against national expectations. Governors regularly monitor teaching and learning and take time to be part of the school's daily life, enabling them to understand its strengths and areas for development. The creation of subject faculties allows strong collaboration amongst teachers. Subject leaders are knowledgeable and develop strategies to further challenge understanding. Pupils describe being thrilled to participate in open debates around big questions, where all can share ideas and beliefs. This enables them to feel valued as learners where their voice can be heard. However, spiritual development is not fully embedded into the wider curriculum.

Collective worship is described by leaders as the heartbeat of the school. It contributes significantly to the success of the Christian vision. The approach to worship of open doors and warm fires ensures that it is inclusive. Pupils are motivated to participate and sing with great enthusiasm. Carefully planned topics allow adults and pupils to reflect on the teachings of Jesus and apply this to their lives. School leaders work closely with pupils to enable them to lead worship and as a result, they freely articulate their beliefs. Worship ambassadors regularly nominate others to participate, allowing leadership opportunities for many. The school links well with the local church community who follow school plans and enthuse pupils. This inspiring start to the day enables pupils to grow spiritually and consider how they may put faith into action. For example, worship focused on the topic of God's planet generated letters to the Prime Minister encouraging change.

The wellbeing of pupils and adults is a high priority. The deeply embedded culture of care and support is recognised by parents. For example, action taken to redecorate a room to support a pupil's needs highlights the effectiveness of the school vision. Difference and diversity are celebrated and families talk fondly of how pupils educate them after learning about festivals such as Diwali. The creation of a space in school as a chapel, allows pupils to leave prayers on a cross and reflect quietly. Pupils are proud of this room, recognising that it contributes to the central school focus on good mental health. Care for adults in school is strong. Staff feel valued as individuals and talk freely to governors. Leaders invest in strategies to reduce workload and provide regular wellbeing activities. These actions support members of the school community to live life in all its fullness.

Strong partnerships exist beyond the school, enabling pupils to gain character building experiences which demonstrate responsibility. Pupils talk fondly of projects that link belief to historical topics such as the local bombing in World War 2. Participating in a number of community schemes enables pupils to experience leadership so they can become change makers. The contribution of pupils to supporting vulnerable people in the local community is rewarded by the Foundation Trust, honouring the school's roots. Pupils frequently respond to local and global issues. They take the initiative to invite charities to attend the school so that more support can be given. This demonstrates that the school is highly effective in enabling pupils to explore their God given talents.

The quality of RE is high at the Canons school. Generous curriculum time is allowed to enable imaginative teaching and learning that links well with other subjects. Well planned and sequenced units of learning allow strong knowledge to grow and skills to develop. Ambitious lessons challenge

pupils to think deeply and appreciate what belief means to them. Excellent leadership provides support for teachers and frequent training creates confidence. This reflects the heart of the school vision in action. Links with the Diocese of Coventry help strengthen provision and staff are tireless in looking for inspirational content and teaching experiences.

Pupils openly share how much they enjoy RE lessons. They appreciate how the subject enables them to learn how to live well with others. The frequent use of reflection in learning through 'pondering questions' ensures pupils engage fully with topics and can confidently express opinions and beliefs. Lesson discussion is recorded expertly by staff who value all comments and ideas. Quality learning opportunities through visits to local churches and two cathedrals provide valuable first-hand experience. Visitors from different faith communities strengthen knowledge and respect for diverse beliefs. This prepares pupils for life in their wider community.

The inspection findings indicate that the Canons Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church School.

Information			
Inspection date	30 January 2024	URN	125689
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	628
Diocese	Coventry		
MAT/Federation			
Executive Headteacher	Michaela Fallon		
Chair	Geoff Allen and Debbie King		
Inspector	Keith Farquhar	No.	2143