



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

Oakmeadow Church of England Primary and Nursery School	
Address	Long Meadow, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0NU

### School vision

Oakmeadow Church of England Primary and Nursery School is committed to ensuring it is a place where together all children dream, grow and achieve - a place where they experience 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

Our vision and values are central to every decision we make in school. We know from Jesus' words from John 10:10, that God's aspiration for us all is that all of our children and staff experience a full and rich life. He calls us to a full life in mind, body and spirit. Therefore, we believe the purpose of education is to nurture and enable every child to be the person they are fully capable of being. For us, this is ensuring an important balance between academic excellence and developing the whole child.

### School strengths

- The Christian vision of the school creates a culture that enables pupils and adults to 'live life in all its fullness'. The vision is true to the foundation of the school and provides clear direction and motivation based on biblical teaching. Therefore, pupils are able to flourish.
- Leaders ensure that the school provides excellent care and support to pupils and adults. Wellbeing is central to its work and the differing needs of pupils are carefully evaluated. This means that pupils are encouraged to achieve their aspirations in an equitable culture.
- Driven by a vision to ensure pupils experience a full life, an inspiring curriculum has been designed. Leaders and teachers effectively collaborate as a school and as part of the Marches Multi-Academy Trust. This ensures that pupils can thrive as learners.
- Religious education (RE) is well led and resourced. An imaginative curriculum provides deep questions, creating opportunities for personal challenge. Pupils are enthusiastic in lessons and enjoy investigating a wide range of faiths and worldviews.
- Collective worship is invitational and inclusive. Careful planning involving Church leaders, provides opportunities for pupils to learn about biblical teaching and express themselves enthusiastically in song.

### Areas for development

- Deepen an understanding of the meaning of spiritual development. This will enable pupils to grow through rich experiences in collective worship and across the curriculum.
- Develop and enrich links with global partnerships. This will enable pupils to have a deeper understanding of social injustice and to act as agents of change on a global level.

## Inspection findings

The aspirational vision of Oakmeadow is central to its effectiveness as a Church school. Based on the words of Jesus, it enables pupils to 'live life in all its fullness'. Adults guide pupils in applying this vision to their lives to motivate and inspire them. This creates an inclusive culture where everyone is supported. A carefully planned collection of values provides a framework for success to pupils. This promotes respect, resilience and integrity as they work and grow together. The vision seeks to grow outward thinking pupils, who can contribute richly to their local community. Within the Marches Multi-Academy Trust, the school vision is respected, providing a strong example of success to other schools. Extensive investment in the school site ensures multiple opportunities for pupils to interact with each other both inside and outside. Governors and trust leaders monitor the impact of the vision regularly, enabling pupils to grow. Adults are also empowered through high quality professional development, supporting the school community to flourish.

Leaders have designed a curriculum that is broad and includes a wide range of opportunities and skills. This demonstrates the school's vision for pupils to dream, grow and achieve. The needs of pupils who are identified as vulnerable are carefully considered and they are therefore able to flourish. Generous investment in classroom support staff ensures that pupils who face barriers to learning can also access the whole curriculum. Adults pride themselves in knowing each pupil individually and ensure that their needs are met. Teachers have begun to consider how opportunities for spiritual development are incorporated into individual subjects. However, this is not fully embedded. Pupils are challenged by deep questioning and have times of reflection to understand the impact that learning has on their lives. A wide range of extra-curricular activities such as music, sport and drama, enrich the daily timetable. Forest school provision and outdoor facilities such as 'Enchanted Oaks' provide a wide experience for pupils. Leaders regularly monitor the impact of the curriculum through questionnaires and pupil voice. Governors provide challenge through regular visits to ensure consistency and growth. Collaborative work with other schools in the trust ensures effective initiatives are introduced to benefit pupils' learning at Oakmeadow.

Pupils value collective worship. They share how they enjoy the variety of worship provided and demonstrate enthusiasm in joyful singing. Leaders plan invitational worship to deepen an understanding of biblical teaching which supports the Christian vision of the school. The planning and delivery of worship is enhanced through guidance from the Diocese of Lichfield. It is also well supported by local Church leaders who contribute to planning and review. Frequent visits to the local church deepen pupils' understanding of Christian rituals and celebrations. The appointment by the school of a ministry worker has enabled pupils to contribute more to the planning and presentation of worship. This means they can grow as leaders and build confidence. A regular focus on the school values in worship supports positive behaviour amongst pupils. Leaders also ensure time for stillness and prayer which is extended into classrooms after worship. This contributes to the development of pupil's spirituality. However, a shared deeper understanding of spiritual development is not fully established, limiting how pupils grow through reflection in worship.

Leaders provide excellent care and support for pupils and adults. Parents articulate how quickly support is offered, described by them as 'sharing God's love'. Adults prioritise the wellbeing of pupils from the start of their time in the nursery. This nurture continues, to ensure they are well prepared for secondary schools. The wellbeing of staff is a priority. A robust programme of mentoring ensures adults can share openly and feel valued. This is supported by trust leaders. This means that adults can maintain energy and enthusiasm for teaching and learning which motivates the pupils. Behaviour is managed effectively through restorative practice. This enables pupils to show forgiveness and manage their own emotions. Adults recognise how support for families has a positive impact on behaviour at school. Guidance is regularly offered to parents in meetings to ensure consistency, enabling pupils to flourish.

Serving the needs of the local community is an important focus at Oakmeadow. Leaders have established a community hub on site to widen links further. Pupils grow from opportunities to meet with others. For example, a debate club enables pupils to discuss issues with community members, increasing an understanding of local needs. Pupils show an appreciation of God’s creation by supporting environmental projects to reduce litter and plant wildflowers. Teaching in school about ethical issues during lessons is a priority. As a result, pupils show a willingness to support local causes through fund raising events. Pupils have been nominated for regional charity awards, demonstrating their willingness to be agents of change. A project run by the trust also encourages pupils to actively explore issues of injustice. An understanding of global needs and responsibility is less well developed. This means that pupils have limited opportunities to apply their understanding to international issues and interact with different communities.

The effective leadership and management of religious education (RE) has led to a carefully constructed curriculum. This has been supported by the diocese and provides breadth and variety. Effective opportunities to understand difference and diversity are regularly included in lessons. Pupils enjoy visits to places of worship such as a Sikh gurdwara. Here, they understand the importance of caring for others as a community. A close partnership with the parish church also enables pupils to learn more about the role of church leaders. Teaching often begins with challenging questions. This allows pupils to investigate answers, strengthening their own beliefs, opinions and learning skills. Pupils share their knowledge through discussions, and they debate issues, whilst respecting the views of others. Effective use of a learning app ensures that pupils with differing needs can effectively record their knowledge and understanding. The trust provides specific support for RE, ensuring it is prioritised in the wider curriculum.

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

Information			
Inspection date	28 February 2024	URN	147830
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	481
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	Marches Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Samantha Hill		
Chair	Maralyn Long		
Inspector	Keith Farquhar	No.	2143