

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Primary School	
Address	80 Nottingham Road, Stapleford, Nottingham. NG9 8AQ

School vision

I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness. John 10:10

Our vision is to nurture and inspire our whole school community, to use their God-given gifts, to be the best that they can be, and therefore flourish in all aspects of their lives. This is expressed through our school motto: 'Be the BEST we can be' which runs through everything we do in school.

In order to be the BEST we can be, we all:

Believe: I can do all this through Him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)
 Endeavour: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart (Colossians 3:23)
 Succeed: Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed (Proverbs 16:3)
 Together: Encourage one another and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

School strengths

- The school community at St John's strives to be the best they can be. They flourish because of Christian compassion lived out at every level and a deep awareness of individual needs.
- The vision is a living reality enabling all to flourish. A comprehensive communication system ensures everyone is well informed, raising awareness of the vision in every aspect of school life.
- Collective worship is enriched by the commitment and valuable contributions made by a range of local churches. This unswerving support makes a positive contribution to pupils' rich knowledge of Bible stories and deepening spiritual awareness.
- There is a rich awareness of a school family living well together and where wellbeing is prioritised. This creates a real sense of belonging.

Areas for development

- Widen the scope of monitoring and evaluation of the school's recently reviewed Christian vision to further impact strategic plans.
- Enhance the understanding of spirituality through identifying opportunities across the whole curriculum.
- Extend pupils' understanding of Christianity as a diverse global living faith and develop practical opportunities to experience a range of world religions.

Inspection findings

'Being the best you can be' is natural and fundamental to life at St John's. The recently reviewed wording of the vision recognises that flourishing and success come in many forms. There is an overwhelming awareness of Christian compassion and building each other up which creates a rich essence of community and togetherness. Motivated by the influence of St John's Christian foundation in their own lives, several adults are now 'giving back.' This creates a deep desire to ensure the school's biblically based legacy inspires a new generation.

The renewed vision is becoming embedded in school life. Bible references attached to the four long established key values of believe, endeavour, succeed and together ensure they are distinctively Christian. These verses contribute greatly to ensuring the vision at St John's has a deep Christian foundation. Bold financial choices are made in order to support pupils to succeed. Leaders make sure the vision is paramount and based on individual need when making decisions. Governors are starting to consider the impact of the vision when monitoring aspects of school life. However, it is not always strategic. As a result, some features of the Christian character of the school are overlooked and not recognised in development planning. Strong partnerships with local Church schools and the diocese support leaders as they make key decisions. Parents, quite rightly, praise the system of communication which keeps them regularly updated about the vision and other key information.

Grounded in 'whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,' pupils believe that they have the ability to do anything. They aspire to do well at St John's. Pupils know how to do their best because they are given clear guidance and objectives. Staff are relentless in ensuring that everyone has the education they deserve. Bespoke provision for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) makes sure all have the targeted interventions to help their learning. The school community nurtures and builds each other up which is observed in even the youngest pupils. The school has recently agreed an understanding of spirituality. Whilst opportunities for spiritual development are evident in the curriculum, these are spontaneous rather than intentionally planned. School evaluation has already identified that this is an area for development. A range of after school clubs and wrap around provision contribute to further flourishing.

Many lives are touched and spiritually enriched by collective worship. It is highly valued and regarded as an important time in the school day. There is a rich familiarity and sense of spirituality prompted by the singing of a hymn as classes enter. Experienced pupil leaders contribute to preparing a focus for worship and leading prayers. Shaped by Anglican tradition, responses are very natural. Pupils participate and worship in a way in which they feel comfortable. A key strength is the inspirational provision different churches make to the spiritual flourishing of both pupils and adults. A range of clergy regularly lead worship allowing pupils to experience a variety of traditions. Good relationships and joint initiatives involving a number of members from different churches contribute to enhancing understanding of the Bible. As a result, pupils have a rich knowledge of Bible stories which positively contributes to their appreciation of the relevance of faith in today's world. Parents value celebrating key events in the Christian calendar at St Helen's church.

Pupils are flourishing because leaders know them well and adapt provision to meet individual needs. Togetherness underpins the whole culture of the school. Pupils and adults live out the vision together as they 'encourage one another and build each other up.' Relationships are extremely positive and they enhance wellbeing. Instances of bullying are rare and a shared commitment to the values promotes positive behaviour. Pupils have reassurance that matters raised are quickly dealt with. Many understand that they

can be their best if they endeavour to model their lives on Jesus' teaching. Caring for mental health, emotional and social needs is intrinsic in the life of the school. Leaders have a comprehensive knowledge of where to access relevant provision. Workshops support parents to help their children at home. Parents choose this school because they know their children will be well cared for and lovingly supported to do their best. Adults are flourishing as they describe the all-encompassing love surrounding them at St John's. Staff recognise they are key members of this tight-knit school community and quite rightly, speak of leaders living out the vision. 'Wellbeing Wednesdays' and other initiatives are positively contributing to their own good mental health as they do their best for each other.

Pupils are confident and articulate as they carry out their duties because 'whatever they do, they do it with all their heart'. This promotes positive relationships and a sense of responsibility towards others. They understand their role within the context of the vision, striving to be the best they can for others. Demonstrating a desire to have their voice heard, the school councillors are elected by their peers to make the school better and help others. They steer fundraising for a chosen charity each year, contribute to community events and support the local food bank. The group works closely in partnership with the school councils in two other Church schools. Pupils appreciate the need for justice as they develop a greater awareness and responsibility towards an increasingly diverse community. However, there are few opportunities for pupils to be agents of change beyond the locality of Stapleford.

Religious education (RE) encourages pupils to understand how it is good to be different, celebrate diversity and respect faith and belief. Pupils know that school is a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs. Leaders ensure that RE has a high profile within the curriculum. This is reflected in the time allocated for lessons. RE is effective because regular staff training ensures a strong subject knowledge. The curriculum is challenging, carefully sequenced and adapted to meet learning needs. Pupils learn about a range of world faiths and are encouraged to think deeply. Practical experiences such as visits to different places of worship are limited. Pupils have a deep understanding of Christian belief and practice. However, opportunities to explore Christianity as a diverse, living world faith are not as well developed.

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

Information			
Inspection date	8 February 2024	URN	122744
VA/VC/Academy	Voluntary Controlled	Pupils on roll	96
Diocese	Southwell and Nottingham		
Headteacher	Matthew Downes		
Chair	Sally Smith		
Inspector	Joy Hardy	No.	944