

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

Clifton Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Cross Side, Clifton Village, Ashbourne, DE6 2GJ

School vision
<p style="text-align: center;">'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:14-16</p> <p>You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they might see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong leadership is allowing the clearly articulated Christian vision to be lived out. Therefore, the school is flourishing.</li> <li>• Everyone at Clifton is nurtured and known as an individual. Pupils live out the vision and associated values through their care for each other.</li> <li>• Collective worship is an integral part of the school's day. Pupils and staff alike welcome the chance to join together as a loving community.</li> <li>• Religious education ( RE) is well planned. As a result, pupils have a good understanding and knowledge of the Christian faith.</li> <li>• Trusting and generous relationships exist across school. This contributes to adults and pupils thriving. Collaboration across the federation of Clifton and Osmaston provides mutual support for both of its schools, drawing on staff expertise.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a whole school approach for spiritual development. This is to ensure that pupils and staff benefit from a shared understanding of spirituality and to allow pupils to shape spiritual opportunities in worship.</li> <li>• Ensure that pupils have opportunities for making a difference beyond their immediate locality. This is so that they see themselves as advocates of change.</li> </ul>
Inspection findings
<p>Burning brightly and shining a light for yourself and others is a key feature of being at Clifton primary school. The care and compassion shown by those who flourish in this school allows them to live a full life as God intended. There is a real sense of kindness and nurture as you enter Clifton Church of England primary school. It is intrinsic in every aspect of school life. This is an inclusive and caring community where all are valued and known as unique individuals with talents. The recently established school's Christian vision of 'Let your light shine' is lived out daily. Talents are nurtured and grown. As a result, this rural school has the feel of a loving family. There is a strong and positive</p>



sense of belonging. The vision of the school is reinforced each morning, as staff welcome everyone with warmth. Pupils speak passionately of everyone getting along. Shining your light is understood as something not just for self but for everyone in the school community. This creates a caring environment for staff and pupils in which to thrive. Leaders, governors and staff speak with confidence about how the vision and values of the school support their high expectations for pupils.

Parents choose to send their children to the school because of the sense of community. Staff are deeply committed to ensuring that pupils, including those considered to be vulnerable, have their individual needs met. Staff champion pupils so that their light shines. At Clifton, there is a demonstrable culture of aspiring to be the best you can be. As a result, pupils have high aspirations. They are articulate and passionate stating that helping everyone to be the best they can is important. The school's established foundations provide all that they need to flourish now and in later life. As a consequence, the flourishing of everyone is a priority shared by leaders, staff and pupils. Leaders are mindful of workload, which ensures that staff are well cared for. Staffing at the school is therefore stable and wellbeing is positive. Leaders are proactive in providing professional development opportunities for staff. Those who work at Clifton are proud of their school and are united by the vision. Staff describe good relationships, professional development, and the support of colleagues as real strengths. Collaboration across the federation allows staff to develop as leaders. Consequently, staff feel valued.

Pastoral support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those who are vulnerable is a priority of the school. Staff live out the school's vision of growth when delivering consistent and loving approaches that enable pupils to flourish. Parents are clear that Clifton is a place where their child's needs are prioritised allowing all to succeed. Relationships are warm, nurturing and rooted in the school vision and associated values. Pupils speak confidently about being part of a team leading to compassion for others. They explain that striving to do well is important. Rich and varied learning experiences extend beyond the school day with a variety of extra-curricular activities. These opportunities allow pupils to discover and develop their talents beyond school.

Collective worship is carefully planned and central to the school day. The lighting of the candle is key to worship because it encourages all to reflect. Pupils are asked how they can support one another to make the light and their talents shine. Staff echo this and recognise how worship at Clifton strongly reflects the school vision of light. The school song enables reflection and engagement with the vision at a deeper level. Worship is grounded in children's previous understanding of the values. This means that growing ideas such as justice and generosity are built upon. Time is given for personal reflection. As a result of this inclusive approach pupils speak positively of how worship makes them feel valued and secure. Worship is enriched with partnerships and visits from the local churches in Ashbourne. Music is chosen to be thought-provoking.

Pupils readily appreciate the importance of social action, and are actively involved in this. For example, they support the local foodbank and the Hope project. Pupils have multiple leadership opportunities which help to prepare them, in the words of the vision, 'to shine'. Collecting badges for leadership and responsibility is strikingly normal for pupils at Clifton. This allows pupils to think about others. However, pupils' opportunities to contribute towards social justice projects remains largely at a local level.

The RE lead and teachers are confident and effective in delivering RE. Lessons are well planned, and pupils are encouraged to ask questions and think deeply. Leaders have ensured that the subject is well resourced with the result that lessons are engaging. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about the importance of RE. They understand the need to learn more about the subject so that they can make sure that they are respectful and knowledgeable. They engage with a range of religions and world



views, including Christianity.

These inspection findings indicate that Clifton Church of England Primary school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	6 March 2024	URN	112811
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	105
Diocese	Derby		
MAT/Federation	Dove Valley Federation		
Executive Headteacher	Jeanette Hart		
Chair	David Stock		
Inspector	Rebecca Dolby-Molson	No.	2221