



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

Forsbrook Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Cheadle Road, Forsbrook, Stoke-on-Trent, ST11 9PW

### School vision

'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'  
Proverbs 22:6

We are a Christian school where quality and opportunities make a difference. All children are unique and valued as children of God, who are welcomed into our safe, loving and supportive Christian family. We strive for excellence and inspire dreams both now and in the future. Every child is nurtured to achieve their God-given potential.

As our children journey through school and into the future, we will encourage them to embrace our Christian values of: Love, Joy, Peace, Hope, Friendship, Compassion, Respect and Courage.

### School strengths

- Forsbrook is very effective at living out the Christian vision through strong and positive relationships. The dedicated leaders and nurturing staff team are key to providing the best opportunities for their pupils.
- Relationships between church and school are essential to this community in supporting every learner on their journey. The expertise and dedication of leaders ensures that collective worship is an enriching experience.
- Pupils enjoy and are fully engaged with the religious education (RE) curriculum that is well planned and resourced.
- Parents and pupils all value how well everyone is treated and included. Pupils have a variety of leadership roles that they enjoy and which support their spiritual development.
- The curriculum is the outworking of the vision and values. Pupils participate in a variety of extra curricular opportunities adding to their wider experiences.

### Areas for development

- Develop a shared understanding of what spirituality means in all aspects of school life so that it is embedded throughout the curriculum.
- Embed pupil understanding of social justice to enable them to take greater ownership and be agents of change.
- Explore partnerships with different communities to deepen pupil's awareness of culture and diversity in our multi-cultural world.

### Inspection findings

The deeply considered Christian vision and values are at the heart of Forsbrook Church of England Primary School. The vision is central to leaders' aspirations that pupils start off on the way they should go. It is at the centre of decisions made by the school. Vision-driven investment in staff training has equipped adults with expertise aligned to the needs of the pupils. Governors know the



school well and are committed to its success. Self-evaluation as a distinctive Church school is effective and used to identify next steps to serve and support this community. Parents recognise how the vision and associated Christian values enable individuals to flourish holistically. There is common language and expectations that all will achieve success. Pupils and staff live out the vision and values ensuring that they flourish together as they 'learn, love and laugh in the light of Jesus.'

Leaders provide strong care for families. Success is not just in academic terms but in following the vision in all aspects of school life. Pupils are very well supported during their time at school because staff foster very strong relationships with families. Parents value the highly effective staff team. Each child is well known and cared for as an individual, with their needs met. Pupils show kindness and respect to their peers and enjoy sharing celebrations of success together. Everyone behaves exceptionally well as they learn, love and laugh together. Pupils say that teachers will always help them to resolve any issues. Support for mental health is a high priority. This strategy, led by the mental health leader, effectively impacts on individuals because of the variety of activities offered. Pupils enjoy spending time with Minnie the school dog, taking her for walks and giving her treats. This results in pupils having time to reflect and then engage more successfully with school life and their peers. Adults and pupils are respected, valued and all are treated well in this inclusive school community.

Leaders and governors understand the need for everyone to be able to explore their spirituality. This is achieved through a range of different activities including the opportunity to pray at various times during the school day. Collective worship is a time of joyfulness, reflection, and spiritual exploration. Everyone is welcome and many value this time together. Leaders recognise the need for different types of worship and ensure this occurs to support spiritual development. Forsbrook has a very strong and effective relationship with the parish church. Many members of the congregation and the school value this friendship. Each week worship is led by local clergy, adding another dimension to exploring faith. The church is fully involved in school life. This includes regular opportunities for individual prayers, lunch with the staff team and 'Open the Book' worship. The pupils enjoy and learn much from this Bible story telling, led by members of the local parish congregation. The pupil worship committee contribute to collective worship and monitor this, making changes to improve the experiences of all. They ensure that any prayers written are shared during worship each week and lead the school in praying for each other. Reflection areas in classes and in the playground give further opportunities for pupils to ponder big questions. Pupils are given regular opportunities to turn to prayer and they do so. A spiritual development day, including other local schools was hosted and led by staff. This has made a significant impact on pupils' understanding of their own spirituality. Leaders have begun to explore other methods for developing spirituality so that this impacts in the curriculum more widely.

Within school there are various opportunities where pupils can help others. Roles such as school council, eco council and first aider, help is given to children, when needed, while playing at lunch. The school has led a range of fund-raising opportunities that they are proud of. Most recently the Birmingham Children's Hospital, the Royal British Legion and various other charities. This all provides character development, training in leadership and opportunities for making a difference. Some pupils act individually to support charities because they have a personal link. Leaders have investigated ways to bring the wider world into pupils' experiences. There is a link with Qatar and pupils write to each other. This is developing their understanding of a culture that is different to their own. Pupils have explored playing chess virtually in the recent chess in the slums project with pupils in Africa. The vision of this project is developing an understanding that even a pawn can become a king, and everyone is equal to God. Pupils are also involved in some community projects, such as supporting the local food bank. The worship committee volunteered and this helped their understanding of being kind to others their local community. Pupils understand the need for change to help improve the world. However, they have had limited experience of putting this into practice

outside of their own community. They do not see themselves as agents of change who are able to make a difference beyond their locality.

The school has a curriculum which is broad and vibrant. It supports pupils' learning and enriches their lives. Leaders ensure that themes are enhanced by linking them to a variety of experiences. There are a range of extra-curricular clubs and activities including Goblin Go-kart racing, where pupils build and race electric karts, drama and Bible study groups. Alongside this there are also many activities to enrich the formal curriculum which most pupils participate in. Pupils were enjoying rehearsing for their drama production of Daniel in the Lion's Den. There are a wide variety of opportunities that the pupils get by being part of the Forsbrook family. Parents commented that the school is 'priceless' and that 'they are prepared beautifully for their next school.' Pupils also engage with the church 'Messy Church' and youth clubs. Families enjoy crafts, games and worship together, alongside members of the parish, building effective relationships between church and school.

RE is led by well-informed and enthusiastic staff. This ensures that the curriculum is challenging for pupils and includes a wide range of religions and worldviews. RE is well-resourced, including the use of visits to places of worship and visitors to school which enriches the subject. Pupils enjoy RE, they are confident and articulate and are thus able to discuss difficult concepts with knowledge and understanding. This also develops their own worldviews. Pupils are confident to share their individual views within a safe and supportive learning environment. Pupils in four year groups enjoy using iPads as part of the learning in RE and record their learning in creative ways. They understand that Christianity is a global world faith and the importance of learning about worldviews. Strong links with the diocese ensure the RE lead accesses current and relevant training, which is shared with all staff.

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

Information			
Inspection date	13 March 2024	URN	132260
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	238
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Kate Cooke		
Chair	Christine Bratt		
Inspector	Sara Goddard	No.	976