



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Gnosall St Lawrence CofE Primary Academy	
Address	Lowfield Lane, Gnosall, Stafford, ST20 0ET
School vision	
<p>Here at Gnosall St Lawrence we enable all pupils and adults to achieve their full potential, as part of a larger community, working and growing together, with Jesus beside us. We pray that our pupils' lives will be filled with truly good qualities and we believe God's Spirit will empower our pupils for action. Our pupils 'will be humble, considering others before themselves' (Philippians) and embrace their roles as courageous advocates in our local, national and global communities. We will shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:16)</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision has been carefully crafted to meet the context and needs of the school. It drives every decision and action and its ambitions are far reaching. As a result, pupils and adults are 'shining lights' in the community. • There is a deep understanding of spirituality here. Opportunities for meditation within worship and the curriculum enables all to experience moments of quiet contemplation which enriches their lives. • Worship is at the core of the life of the school and is highly valued. The wide variety of offered experiences ensures it is inspiring and transformative on the spiritual development of adults and pupils. Its impact goes beyond the school building. • The exemplary behaviour of pupils is shaped by a positive culture which has the Christian vision and associated values at its centre. Respect, kindness and forgiveness resonate through relationships. Consequently, this is a happy and thriving place to be. • Pupils are valued and their voice is heard. As a result, pupils believe they can make significant and positive changes and have a responsibility to do so. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the ways that pupils live out the Christian vision as local, national and global agents of change. This is to strengthen opportunities for them to 'shine as lights in the world'. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Gnosall St Lawrence Church of England Primary Academy shines as a light of Christian love throughout its community. The Christian vision permeates all aspects of school life and its impact</p>	

reaches beyond its building to the lives of families in their homes. The staff are relentless in providing the right care for pupils and their families. As a result, this is accurately described as a place where adults and pupils feel held in God's arms.

The Christian vision has been thoroughly researched, discussed and crafted to ensure that it meets the needs of its community. It is firmly rooted in the school's Christian foundation and is highly ambitious for the flourishing of everyone. It drives all decisions and actions including the formation of beneficial partnerships. This includes belonging to St Bartholomew's Multi-Academy Trust (the trust) whose vision and values align with those of the school. The programme of training means that adults are given many opportunities to further their skills and knowledge. Therefore, staff are highly motivated and knowledgeable. Added to this, the school and trust are passionate in ensuring everyone is well looked after. The trust has invested in many schemes looking after the health and wellbeing of staff. Inspired by the vision, leaders, including governors, work with determination to support the healthy work-life balance of staff. As a result, staff feel cared for and valued as part of the trust-wide family.

Governors and the trust are robust in their monitoring of provision and outcomes. They provide both support and challenge and ensure the school remains true to its Christian foundation. This is reflected in policies, procedures, curriculum planning and relationships. Leaders are ambitious for pupils to develop all aspects of their character. Because of this, the teaching of values has been woven into all aspects of learning. For example, in PE, pupils learn the importance of resilience and commitment and during history, kindness and respect. Therefore, they understand how the Christian values practised in school apply to the wider world. Furthermore, the positive behaviour policy and curriculum encourage relationships to be built on trust and forgiveness. This means pupils are enabled to flourish morally, spiritually, socially and academically.

Pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility. Each class studies the life and works of a chosen inspirational person. This relatively new addition to the curriculum inspires them to believe that their actions can help improve the world. Year 6 ambassadors, faith team, digital leaders, maths ambassadors and eco monitors all have important roles. This helps instil a sense of active caring for the needs of others. Every pupil is part of the whole school forum that explores ways to improve the school and wider world. This gives a voice to all, meaning they feel heard and valued by the staff. The United Nations Global goals are explored in depth by the Year 6 ambassadors who then present their findings through the school forum. These presentations are helping pupils to develop an understanding of matters of injustice. In some instances, pupils have then initiated actions such as a recycling campaign. Consequently, they are beginning to develop an understanding of justice and a belief that their actions can make a difference. However, this is at an early stage and pupils' understanding of this is limited to their own locality.

The exploration of spirituality is deeply embedded into the school day. There is a shared vocabulary used to discuss spirituality which is understood by pupils and staff. The approach of using the analogy of windows, mirrors and doors creates a pathway for discovering meaning. This forms an intrinsic part of the school's dialogue when considering and discussing spirituality. Therefore, everyone has the means to articulate their feelings, thoughts and beliefs. Daily meditation follows lunchtime and a sense of calm descends upon the school. The lights are turned low, soft music is played to prepare everyone. As an integral part of the day, it is valued as a time to 'just be' and to enjoy the stillness and silence. Because of this, pupils and staff are able to appreciate how moments of calm enhances their lives. Consequently, their awareness of their own spirituality is enhanced. Collective worship enriches the spiritual development of the community. It is varied in approach with times of reflection, prayer, song and stories. This means that different ways of worship are explored, allowing everyone to enjoy their preferred style. The fortnightly 'Open the Book' sessions are loved by all as a way of learning about the Bible through drama and interaction. The group

bring lively interpretations of Christian teachings to the whole school. These sessions enrich the worship life of the school and enhance pupils and adults' knowledge of the Bible. Church visits at times of Christian festivals help to build a sense of celebration, awe and wonder. The discovery and appreciation of God's creation is planned into forest school provision. Here everyone encouraged to take time in nature, finding beauty in the great and small. This deepens their lived experience of discovering their spiritual self.

Religious education (RE) deepens pupils' understanding of a range of worldviews and religions. The on-going development of the curriculum is researched, developed and evaluated with support from the trust and Lichfield Diocese. There is a careful sequencing of knowledge, skills and concepts that ensures a growing understanding of worldviews and global faiths. Knowledge organisers support teachers to ensure each unit of study is planned progressively. Key vocabulary, prior learning and concepts all support staff to deliver RE confidently. The curriculum is constantly being reviewed to ensure it is relevant and inspiring for each cohort. Leaders ensure that Christianity is explored from a world-wide view. The use of Christian art work and music from countries such as China help pupils to understand that Christianity is a global religion. Concepts are explored through 'big questions' like 'Does praying at regular intervals help a Muslim in his/her everyday life?' The starting point of discovery is always relevant to pupils' own experiences followed by the discovery of knowledge. Debates and discussions enable a growing understanding of the challenges and rewards living with a faith can bring. As a result, pupils are confident in articulating their own beliefs, views and spiritual convictions and those of others.

The inspection findings indicate that Gnosall St Lawrence is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	16 April 2024	URN	141779
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	276
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	St Bartholomew's CE Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Kirsten Sweet		
Chair	Richard Pithers		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery	No.	2243