

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Kingsland Church of England Academy	
Address	Werrington Road, Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST2 9AS
School vision	
<p>“I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">John 8:12</p> <p>Together we are walking in the light with Jesus and we let our light shine!</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is cherished by both the trust and the school. It informs every action and interaction, ranging from the strategic work of trust leaders to the daily decisions of staff. • Leaders have developed exceptionally strong partnerships within the St Bart’s Multi-Academy Trust and the Diocese of Lichfield. These relationships have enabled pupils and staff across the diocese to benefit from the knowledge and expertise within this school. • The school’s work with vulnerable pupils and their families is exceptional. Through the Lighthouse Centre and the Lantern Café, the school is transforming lives within the local community. • Pupils and staff flourish spiritually through rich experiences of prayer and worship. These experiences impact pupils' lives beyond the school gates. • Pupils have a strong understanding of Christianity as a worldwide religion. They make purposeful links between what they have learnt in religious education and their everyday lives. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend opportunities in RE, so that pupils develop a deeper understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Led by their vision, the highly dedicated leadership team have created a truly inclusive culture within this school. Pupils and staff are cherished and encouraged to ‘let their light shine’. The treasured key values of prayer, forgiveness, kindness, generosity, peace and respect permeate each and every aspect of the school’s work. They provide inspiration. Pupils and staff alike flourish because of the way in which the school lives out its biblically rooted vision and values.</p> <p>Leaders are tenacious in their efforts to provide a breadth of opportunities and much-needed services for their pupils and families. Trust and school leaders have made bold financial decisions to support the local community. With missional funding from the Diocese of Lichfield, they opened The Lighthouse Centre and Lantern Café within the school building. These invaluable community resources are successfully led and staffed by the school themselves. Parents and carers are united in</p>	

their gratitude for the many resources available to their families through both the centre and the café. These include practitioner support from the National Health Service, parenting classes and support groups, youth groups for the wider community and a warm space for families to meet. Services for the community are not restricted to the school day. Leaders and staff show unfailing generosity in giving up evenings, weekends and holidays to provide opportunities and support for their pupils and families. This school is truly embracing its community and is, without doubt, changing lives through this work.

Members of staff are highly valued and respected and are encouraged to 'let their light shine'. Trustees and governors recognise the significant expertise of the school leadership team. They support their engagement with trust, diocese and national Church of England projects which lead to mutual flourishing. Staff within school are given the opportunity to engage with a range of professional development opportunities. Many of the school's senior leaders began their career at Kingsland. Through highly effective professional development, they have worked their way through to a leadership position in the school.

Spirituality is celebrated as the golden thread which weaves throughout all aspects of the school's curriculum. Staff create carefully considered, year group specific opportunities for spiritual development within different curriculum areas. This is in addition to celebrating the spontaneous 'wow moments' that occur in the daily life of the school. Pupils speak with candour about the importance of prayer and spirituality in their lives. Parents welcome the school's work to support their children's spiritual development and recognise its impact. One parent referred to the school's chaplain as a 'spiritual parent' for their child. The school's partnership with the Parish of Bucknall and its clergy is exceptional. Staff, pupils, and parents alike benefit enormously from the pastoral guidance and support offered by the team. They work closely with school leaders and the school chaplain to provide a framework of support for the spiritual and personal wellbeing of the whole community.

Worship is the heartbeat of school life. The school's vision and values are central to the planning of worship themes. Pupils are given the opportunity to let their light shine by leading worship for their peers and the wider school community. They are eager to be involved in the pupil worship team and enjoy sharing worship with the wider community through regular visits to local care homes and churches within the parish. Pupils value this time with older members of their community and flourish through relationships which have been built over a number of years. Prayer reaches out into all aspects of the school's work. Pupils understand prayer for others as a blessing which they can share. They have created prayer cards which are distributed around the local community. Through their school prayer station, they write individual, private prayers which are offered up collectively each week during a shared act of worship. Pupils and staff seek out opportunities for shared prayer during times of personal challenge and this brings them immense comfort.

Driven by their vision, leaders are passionate in their commitment to removing barriers for pupils. They secured vital funding to create their own school-based provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). 'Footsteps' is a specialist provision within the school for pupils with SEND. Pupils who access footsteps are given the specialist teaching, space and resources needed to enable them to flourish and to 'let their light shine'.

Pupils and their families are highly valued and are treated with the utmost dignity and respect. In turn, pupils demonstrate this respect and kindness in their interactions with one another. Through worship, prayer and the school's values-driven curriculum, pupils understand the importance of justice and forgiveness. They believe in equality and share a desire for all cultures to be treated equally and for difference to be celebrated. Pupils are eager to have a role in the highly respected pupil chaplaincy team. Through this team, they seek to support one another in living out the



school's values. Bullying is rarely seen in school as a result.

Through their values-led curriculum, staff are supporting pupils in becoming agents for change in the world. Pupils are resolute in their desire to protect God's creation by reducing plastic in the oceans, encouraging recycling and picking up litter. They readily share and commend this work to their families and community. Pupils are rightly proud of their 'blessings cupboard' which serves as a food bank for the local community. This resource is highly valued by parents and carers who access it to support both themselves and local residents.

RE is the cornerstone of the school's values-led curriculum. Significant emphasis is placed upon staff training, with leadership expertise being shared across the trust. The introduction of a new curriculum resource has supported the subject leader in developing provision for the youngest pupils. The RE leader supports staff in developing innovative ways to use technology to support curriculum delivery. This reduces barriers to learning for all pupils, especially those with SEND. The curriculum supports pupils in developing a strong understanding of Christianity as a worldwide religion. Pupils can make direct links between their learning in RE and their own life choices. The curriculum does not support them in exploring a range of faiths and worldviews with the same depth.

The inspection findings indicate that Kingsland Church of England Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	25 April 2024	URN	142640
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	461
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	St Bart's Multi Academy Trust		
Principal	Sara Goddard		
Chair	David Street		
Inspector	Katie Savage	No.	2140