

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Rowsley C of E Primary School	
Address	Woodhouse Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 2ED
School vision	
<p>As a community we encourage all our children to flourish into the best version of themselves through our Christian values of respect, compassion, belonging and faith. These are all rooted in love.</p> <p>“Life in all its fullness.” John 10:10</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders are driven by the Christian vision when making decisions. This ensures that the pupils of Rowsley school flourish and live ‘life in all its fullness’. • Staff model ways in which pupils can be agents of change. Consequently, they respond positively by engaging in their own actions. • Strong relationships with all stakeholders are a strength of the school. Positive behaviour and attitudes are due to the deep understanding of the Christian vision and values. • Pupils enjoy religious education (RE) due to a range of learning opportunities which stem from a well-planned and sequenced curriculum. • All staff and pupils are able to flourish through a culture of compassion, respect and love which is underpinned by the Christian vision. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the school’s understanding of spirituality within collective worship and the wider curriculum. This is to ensure that pupils have opportunities to develop their own spirituality. • Enhance RE by developing a rich programme of visits and visitors to maximise pupils’ understanding of a wider range of religions and worldviews. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Rowsley Church of England Primary School is a nurturing, caring community built on a foundation of love. The vision and values are embedded across the school and are lived out in relationships. They have a high profile. As a result, pupils and adults are provided with guidance as to how pupils and adults live ‘life in all its fullness’. Leaders speak passionately about how their established vision resonates with the context of their school. A dedicated staff team live out this vision. When the nearby river flooded the school, staff united. They used the village hall to teach pupils and support local families. Staff feel valued and empowered to make a difference to the lives of pupils. Policies and decisions are made with the vision at the centre. Governors regularly visit the school and know the school well. Following monitoring exercises regarding workload for the headteacher when the school federated, a deputy headteacher was appointed. As well as reducing workload for the headteacher, a member of staff has been supported into a more senior role. Federation with another small Church school nearby benefits Rowsley. Effective practice is shared. The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) works closely with the SENDCo of the federated school sharing resources and expertise to support both schools.</p> <p>The school's vision and values underpin its inclusive approach to supporting all pupils. Leaders have designed a newly ambitious curriculum where the needs of all pupils are met. This includes vulnerable pupils and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The school have a range of resources to support pupils including a well-equipped sensory room. Individual needs are</p>	

sensitively addressed through leaders' early identification and subsequent targeted interventions. The progress and achievements of every pupil are a source of pride. Pupils enjoy school. This is because they and their families are well supported and have positive relationships with staff.

Forest school is used to support the spiritual development of pupils. Through consultation with pupils, staff and parents an understanding of spirituality was agreed. This is expressed throughout the school as 'it is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves.' Whilst this understanding is being shared and used there is not always clear planning for its implementation across all curriculum areas.

Collective worship is deeply rooted in the school's Christian vision and values. It is integral to the school day. Worship is inclusive because all are invited to participate. Those with additional needs are given support to enable them to engage. The vision and values underpin collective worship. Through the use of Bible stories, pupils are encouraged to make thoughtful responses as to how they can live out the school values. For example, they rightly say, 'the good samaritan shows how we should help and care for each other.' Reflection spaces in classrooms provide pupils with space to respond in their own time. They value this opportunity. Some pupils enthusiastically lead parts of worship. They re-enact Bible stories through drama. As a result of this, they speak positively of how worship makes them feel valued. The school's relationship with the local church enriches worship and is a strength. The vicar leads worship each week. Additionally, he provides a confidential 'listening ear' for staff. It impacts positively on the daily experiences of pupils and staff. Pupils and parents are invited to attend church for Christian festivals. These services are valued by parents helping to unite them as a community and sometimes connecting them to their own faith.

The Rowsley school community treat each other well. This is inspired by the Christian vision alongside the values of respect, compassion and love. Older pupils support younger ones such as helping to navigate the staircase in school. As a result, pupils are happy, safe and proud to attend Rowsley school. These strong relationships extend into the community. Staff go above and beyond to provide support and care for parents. A family support worker, employed by the school, builds on these relationships. They know the needs of families well and work with local trusts and charities to provide support where it is needed. Parents who have encountered difficult times personally have been supported by staff. A culture of support for staff is evident. Leaders and governors place a high priority on wellbeing and good mental health. This leads to wise decision making which takes workload into account. Leaders recognise and respond to challenges staff have in their lives. They provide personalised support. As a result, staff are valued and listened to.

Driven by leaders, the vision creates a culture that inspires pupils to have a positive impact on the lives of others. Leaders and staff model being agents of change. A member of staff has spent time in India supporting a teacher training project. Daily blogs and video calls to the pupils provided them with insights of school life in India. As a result, pupils saw injustice and wanted to make a difference. Through fund raising they are now providing pupils in India with a meal every day in school. Pupils actively seek to make a positive change in their own community. One pupil raised money and provided the school with some new reading books. Pupils can articulate the positive changes they are making. As a result, they understand what it means to show compassion and base what they do in love.

RE is highly valued by all. Recent changes by leaders have included increasing the time spent studying religions and worldviews. Thoughtful planning is well-sequenced and provides effective challenge across the school. As a result, pupils demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding. Units start with big questions which fosters curiosity. It inspires them to explore more deeply questions about beliefs and how religions and worldviews are experienced. However, opportunities to visit places of worship and talk with people of faith is limited. Christianity is taught through the use of Bible stories. Pupils are knowledgeable about these and their relevance today. Planning and implementation of the



curriculum has been supported by the diocese. Pupils speak enthusiastically about RE and are proud of their work. Lessons are enhanced through a range of activities including drama and debate.

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

Information			
Inspection date	25 March 2024	URN	112820
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	61
Diocese	Derby		
MAT/Federation	Peak Tor Federation Governors		
Headteacher	Alexia Wyer		
Chair	Adrian Thornhill		
Inspector	Stacey Rand	No.	c23/24