



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Shawbury St Mary's Church of England Primary School	
Address	Poynton Road, Shawbury, Shrewsbury, SY4 4JR
School vision	
<p>Our Church of England School seeks to inspire and nurture a love of learning, curiosity, independence and self-belief in a peaceful and stable environment. Building on a strong framework of Christian beliefs and values, we aim to support each other and the wider community.</p> <p>With peace as our core Christian value, we learn to have trust and faith in Jesus to face life's challenges; 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.' Matthew 5:9.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Where every day matters and everybody counts.</p> <p>Collaboration, ambition, respect, positivity, integrity, empowerment with the over-arching value of peace.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shawbury St Mary's has an effective vision based on Christian beliefs and values. This supports a united school community that thrives, enabling pupils to grow as learners and individuals. • Motivated by the vision to encourage a love of learning, the curriculum has been created to inspire pupils. Careful and inclusive planning ensures that they are able to thrive. • The wellbeing and mental health of pupils and adults is a high priority for leaders. Regular initiatives support the whole community to live well together. This generates pride in belonging to the school. • A motivational culture of respect in lessons encourages pupils to embrace diversity. This prompts them to become agents of change locally and globally. • Well supported leadership in religious education (RE) has enabled an effective curriculum to be created. Exploring a range of faiths and worldviews, as well as Christianity, equips pupils to demonstrate respect and tolerance. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the renewed Christian vision, particularly with pupils. Ensure that the core value of peace is widely addressed in the curriculum. This is to enable them to appreciate its importance in living well together. • Develop a range of experiences for worship, especially times of reflection. This is to provide opportunities for deeper spiritual growth for pupils. 	

Inspection findings

A clear vision, based on peace, accurately reflects the community that Shawbury St Mary's serves. It is unique to the school, which is part of the Empower Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). A set of key Christian values embodies the setting's foundation. They support the pupils' academic and spiritual growth. The overarching value of peace permeates the community that includes families from a local RAF base. However, although the vision is enriching, pupils are less clear about how peace applies to the wider curriculum. This limits the links they create between the vision and their learning. Staff collaborate well to create an inspiring environment in classrooms and corridors. This stimulates curiosity for learning as well as pride and a sense of belonging. Leaders are supportive and compassionate, ensuring that pupils feel safe and respected. Parents share that this culture of care influences their choice in sending them to the school. Through a range of initiatives, leaders also ensure that staff wellbeing is prioritised. Governors and MAT representatives provide a strong programme of challenge and support. They visit regularly and meet with pupils and adults. This stability enables effective growth, particularly during periods of change. The school benefits from the support of the Diocese of Lichfield and maintains strong links with the local Church. These partnerships enrich the Christian character of St Mary's and help it to fulfil its vision.

Leaders have carefully considered the school's context when planning learning experiences. This ensures that pupils have opportunities to investigate diversity and difference. English texts are successfully selected to enable them to see life through different perspectives. Specialist subject weeks spark imagination and curiosity grows as pupils explore topics. Teachers are guided by the vision to inspire a love of learning through creating practical experiences. This empowers pupils to contribute actively to learning. Spaces to reflect are frequent and enable them to develop their spiritual awareness. Teaching is inclusive and meets the varying needs of pupils. Lessons are adapted well, enabling them to grow and be challenged. Access to the 'forest school' is highly effective, especially inspiring the youngest pupils. Extra-curricular activities are very popular and develop skills in art and many sports. Close collaboration with other schools in the MAT allows teachers to develop new initiatives. This enriches the provision at Shawbury St Mary's.

Planning for collective worship includes a focus on school values. This means that pupils reflect on how Christian teaching influences their lives and encourages them to grow spiritually. Worship is inclusive and all are welcome to participate. Pupils thrive from sharing their beliefs, and they engage enthusiastically in singing. During times of stillness, they show respect as they appreciate the opportunity to reflect together. Leaders work well with the diocese to develop successful new approaches. Teachers are increasingly contributing to its leadership enabling their spiritual growth also. The school also receives strong support from the local Church team. Pupils visit St Mary's Church and benefit from spiritual experiences as they celebrate festivals. They enjoy these times, especially when they act out Bible stories. This effectively reinforces their understanding of key Christian teaching. However, not all worship allows space for reflection. Therefore, spiritual development is limited. Motivational class-based worship provides opportunities to learn more about the wider Christian community. Pupils respond actively through charitable fund raising as they support those in need.

Providing a place of peace is a high priority at St Mary's. Strong engagement with families and the wider community means that there are varied experiences for pupils to serve others. Events such as 'Grandparents Day' offer the opportunity to show respect and celebrate unity. Pastoral care is a clear strength. Parents appreciate the support shown to them so that basic needs are met. A uniform bank ensures that pupils feel united in looking smart together. This demonstrates the inclusive approach taken by adults. Wellbeing and mental health are regularly reviewed. Well-trained staff facilitate conversations so that pupils can talk freely about their feelings. A special day each term is dedicated to promoting wellbeing. These actions allow pupils to feel valued and to have a voice. The MAT

provides wellbeing support for staff teams. This equips them to focus on providing high quality teaching in lessons. Governors also regularly visit the school so that adults feel supported. Well-constructed policies around pupil behaviour are implemented. Subsequently, pupils respect each other and demonstrate forgiveness and reconciliation.

An understanding of justice and responsibility is strong amongst pupils. They are aware that their voice matters and are involved in making a positive change globally. Campaigns such as saving orangutans are raised by pupils. This enables them to identify inequality in the distribution of global resources and consider how to challenge it. A keen interest in the environment and sustainability exists. This is linked to creation stories in the Bible, prompting pupils to demonstrate care and compassion. The provision of extra-curricular activities and trips, supports a deeper appreciation of culture. Pupils share the excitement of the school choir singing in an abbey. This demonstrates the varied ways in which pupils are thriving through the value of empowerment.

Development of the RE curriculum has been thorough and effective. Leaders have ensured that the subject has a high priority on the timetable. Working with the diocese, they have provided extensive training opportunities for teachers. This means that teaching is both inspiring and challenging. Learning is based around deep questions, encouraging them to explore meaning. Teachers include role-play and debates in lessons, resulting in memorable experiences and strong subject knowledge. Exploring Christian teaching and practices strengthens an understanding of the faith. In Early Years, awe and wonder is expressed when looking at the Easter story. Older pupils also learn about the diversity of celebrating Christian festivals in countries, such as Poland. They show much enthusiasm in studying a range of religions and worldviews. Topics such as fasting are explored to support a deeper understanding of the community around them. Careful monitoring of the curriculum and provision by governors, ensures that pupils flourish in RE.

These inspection findings indicate that Shawbury St Mary's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	20 March 2024	URN	147568
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	251
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	EMPOWER Trust		
Executive Principal	Sarah North		
Chair	Kelly Leonard		
Inspector	Keith Farquhar	No.	2143