



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Walsall Wood St John's Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Brook Lane, Walsall Wood, Walsall, WS9 9NA

School vision
A family of equal, diverse and unique people, made in the image of God, together aspiring to fulfil our God given potential by nourishing 'The Fruit of the Spirit' in our lives.

School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian vision is firmly established. It drives and directs the work of the school. • Vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are included through skilful adaptations. The Christian vision brings diverse and unique pupils together to become part of a cohesive community. • Collective worship promotes and brings to life the school's Christian values. Pupils respect and display these values both in and out of school. • Pupils and adults who have experienced difficult circumstances are welcomed and nurtured. The aspiration to fulfil their God given potential transforms the lives of families. • The religious education (RE) curriculum is thoroughly planned and resourced. It inspires and provides insight to pupils.

Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum. This is to improve pupils' understanding of spirituality in a range of contexts. • Increase governors' monitoring of RE. This will help to evaluate the level of challenge in the curriculum and involve governors in its future development.

Inspection findings
<p>The Christian vision of Walsall Wood St John's Primary School is at the heart of its life and work. It is relevant and important to pupils and adults. The local church shares the same vision as the school. It was jointly developed in response to increasing diversity in the area. This creates strong links between church and school which are of benefit to both, and to the wider community. A set of eight Christian values complement the vision. These form the basis for learning, behaviour management, rewards and worship. They mean that pupils are valued as individuals, each of whose strengths are recognised and maximised. Pupils care deeply about the vision and values. They refer to them in their own conversations in school and at home. Leaders and governors use the vision as a starting point and moral compass in the decisions that they make. There is a genuine belief that every pupil and adult can fulfil their God-given potential.</p> <p>The curriculum provides comprehensive learning opportunities for pupils. Support for vulnerable pupils is at the heart of the Christian vision and is a particular strength. This ranges from discreet</p>

assistance within mainstream lessons through to highly specialised one-to-one provision in a nurture hub. Leaders have facilitated this support through strategic planning, funding and decision-making. None of this is at the expense of other pupils. Staff are trained and skilled in supporting pupils of all abilities and backgrounds. The school's open-plan layout creates an intrinsically inclusive atmosphere. Calm corners and break-out spaces mean that pupils can move to a quieter environment. They feel in control of their own learning, but are guided and directed by the adults around them. Pupils' development is enhanced through wide-ranging enrichment and extra-curricular activities. These are open to all, with creative adaptations in place to include vulnerable pupils. Pupils and staff have an awareness of the concept of spiritual development. However, this is largely associated with their experiences in worship. Opportunities to develop spirituality across the wider curriculum are not clearly identified or utilised.

Daily collective worship brings the Christian vision and values to life. Each half term, different values are taken as the theme. Bible stories linked to these values are used. This means that pupils see and understand the Christian roots of the values. Worship is made relevant to pupils. They therefore appreciate the importance of Christian values in their own lives, not just in school but also at home. Worship is led by school staff and by clergy and volunteers from the local church. All pupils visit the church for worship a number of times each year. This provides links with the local community and involves families in worship they would otherwise not experience. Pupils value the opportunity for calm, quiet reflection. This develops their spirituality, regardless of their own personal beliefs. Pupils and adults of all faiths and none are included in worship. Links between Christianity and other religions are explored and highlighted. This creates an ethos of respect and acceptance.

The school's provision for pupils who have experienced difficult times is transformational. Leaders actively seek to include pupils who struggle to access mainstream education. Innovative facilities have been created and staff have been given specialist training. This means that pupils who were previously at risk of exclusion are welcomed and nurtured. Many of these pupils are eventually integrated into whole-class lessons. For others, the school acts as their advocate in securing the alternative provision they need. Families move from despair to joy as they see their children embrace learning. Their children become happier, meaning that relationships at home are improved. The school's Christian vision is driving leaders to expand this support to pupils from other schools. This inclusive approach means that pupils simply do not perceive difference. All are welcomed and accepted. The all-encompassing support extends to staff. The strong relationships within the school mean that adults always have somewhere to turn in difficult times.

Pupils and adults have a deep-seated sense of justice and responsibility. This is rooted in the school's Christian vision and values. Pupils are encouraged to consider both local and global issues. They develop an awareness that they have the power and ability to make a difference. Pupils litter-pick in the local community and raise funds for global charities. Opportunities are provided for pupils to take on responsibilities. These include leading worship or leading play. Staff skilfully guide pupils as they take on these responsibilities. Pupils therefore develop their leadership and independence. This impacts on their wider lives outside school. Partnerships with the local church are close and strong. These links are mutually beneficial. Shared knowledge of families and the community mean that any need for support is quickly identified and addressed. Families consequently feel welcomed and accepted as part of both the church and the school.

The RE curriculum is rigorously planned to provide the best possible learning experience to pupils. They highly value their RE lessons. Pupils appreciate the importance of learning about a range of world faiths and beliefs. They understand that this allows them to accept and embrace diversity. Much of the learning in RE is structured around big questions. This develops pupils' philosophical thinking. They acknowledge that this deep thinking is some of the most challenging work they complete in school. However, their attitude is to tackle and conquer these challenges rather than be

defeated by them. RE lessons make direct reference to the Christian vision and values. Pupils enjoy the opportunity to explore exactly what the vision means to them. Curriculum lessons are complemented by a wide range of enrichment, including visits and visitors. A mock wedding for younger pupils in the local church had particular impact on pupils, staff and families. It allowed them to experience and understand the structure and meaning of a Christian wedding. Staff at all levels undertake aspects of planning in RE. This gives a sense of shared ownership and importance. Governors have been actively involved in many of the enrichment activities. However, they do not monitor teaching and learning in the RE curriculum.

The inspection findings indicate that Walsall Wood St John's Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	8 May 2024	URN	104228
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	361
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Andrew Mills		
Chair	Jane Clark		
Inspector	James Manship	No.	2241