



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Nicolas Church of England Academy, Nuneaton	
Address	Windermere Avenue, Nuneaton, CV11 6HJ
School vision	
<p>Together we Flourish. We strive to provide the rich soil that enables our children and adults to develop the deep roots that they need to flourish in the love and grace of God. Within our community, our Christian school nurtures growth and supports all to have the courage to face challenge and the resilience to persevere even when confronted by difficulties. We endeavour to provide abundant opportunities which provide a platform for unique strengths and talents to blossom. Everyone feels valued and has respect for themselves and others, and hope for the brightest future. Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong Christian vision is the foundation at St Nicolas’ and provides a unifying purpose for both adults and pupils. Both the vision and the values impact daily on the lives of pupils and staff, ensuring everyone flourishes together. • The rich curriculum opportunities are effectively shaped by the vision and values. The exciting and engaging curriculum is tailored to ensure each pupil can flourish and grow their unique strengths and talents. • A strong partnership with St Nicolas’ Church strongly enhances collective worship. Collective worship is a rich expression of the Christian vision, where pupils and adults grow spiritually together. • Leaders have a relentless pursuit of care and compassion for all in the community. Through a deep understanding of individual needs, both pupils and adults live well in a dignifying and inclusive culture. • Religious education (RE) is strongly led, with a high-quality curriculum that is valued by all. As a result, pupils make strong progress in RE. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further embed a coherent understanding and language around spirituality so that pupils develop spiritually in all aspects of the curriculum. • Develop further opportunities for pupils to make deeper contributions to collective worship, extending the ways that collective worship has relevance and meaning in the spiritual lives of pupils. • Embed assessment approaches to RE, in response to the newly introduced syllabus, ensuring pupils make progress in all areas of RE. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>St Nicolas’ Academy has a firmly rooted Christian vision. The Parable of the Sower is widely known and understood by the youngest pupils and adults alike. This vision provides a unifying purpose for</p>	

the entire school community that 'Together we Flourish'. Committed leaders clearly understand what it means to live out the Christian vision of the school. Together with a dedicated and wholehearted team, leaders create an inclusive and equitable culture where pupils and adults can flourish. Working closely with St Nicolas' Church, pupils and adults are well supported and nurtured in this highly inclusive environment. The Academy Governance Committee has a clear understanding of the school's vision. They skillfully craft intentional opportunities to evaluate the impact of this. As a result, school leaders are well-equipped to make meaningful changes that impact the daily lives of pupils and adults. This includes developments in approaches taken to collective worship and how pupils' voice is heard when staffing structures are reviewed. The Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust is extremely active in serving the entire school community. Through its vision 'Together, pursuing life in all its fullness' effective actions are delivered alongside school leaders, staff, and governors. This is because of the clear resonance between the vision of the school and the trust. Consequently, school leaders know the next steps on this school's journey.

The vision inspires the design and delivery of an exciting and engaging curriculum. Leaders and teachers know each pupil well. This ensures that the curriculum is tailored to provide the 'rich soil' for pupils' unique strengths and talents to blossom. This leads to pupils that are confident, characterful learners who achieve well. Pupils and staff understand and appreciate how the range of curriculum opportunities provides some opportunities for spiritual development. These are expressed in a range of ways, but there is not a consistent understanding across the school community. This limits the planned opportunities for spiritual development. A range of extracurricular activities give further opportunities to grow pupils' aspirations. Leaders diligently approach the extra-curricular offer to ensure pupils with additional needs are warmly included. This nurtures the growth of a widened range of talents, where together they flourish. The strengths of each staff member are well understood and developed by leaders. As a result, the specialist skills and talents of staff further enhance the curriculum. This can be seen in examples such as art, music and Spanish. The impressive learning environment is a true celebration of the way that both the pupils and adults flourish together.

Whole school worship, frequently led by the church, deeply roots the sense of togetherness. The Christian values are central to the well-developed worship programme. Worship is highly inclusive resulting in respectful sensitivity towards those of all faiths and none. Inspiring Bible stories encourage both pupils and adults to carry the messages from worship into the school day and beyond. Pupils enthusiastically work alongside the local church and youth missionary as values detectives. Through deep conversations, pupils explore ways in which they can give thanks to all of those showing the school values. This powerful approach strengthens the relationships between pupils and adults underpinned by Christian teaching. Pupils are clear they wish to develop the way they contribute to worship to build on this approach. Classroom worship provides a more intimate space, where children and adults reflect deeply and pray together. Class reflection journals allow pupils to respond to worship through prayer, questions and action. This impacts deeply on pupils, who ask questions about faith and pray with their own families at home. Singing together in worship is a unifying experience. Adults treasure singing together with the pupils and being 'part of something bigger'. All are clear that it is worship that 'provides the good soil' to flourish spiritually.

The vision promotes a culture that recognises and celebrates each individual's significance and uniqueness. Positive mental health and emotional wellbeing is a high priority for pupils and staff. Trust leaders listen carefully to the views of all staff, to ensure that policies and actions taken will enhance the wellbeing of staff in school. Adults are clear that leaders exceed their expectations ensuring the vision creates a culture where they are treated well. Random acts of kindness, supportive conversations and an invitation to wellbeing Wednesday affirm the caring culture of the school. The relationships at all levels are exceptional. Consequently, the needs of pupils and adults are swiftly identified and appropriate support is provided. The Thrive Room and Garden Room

illustrate the high priority leaders place on ensuring pupils are supported in difficult circumstances. Specialist support staff provide nurture and care for pupils requiring additional support. The impact of this is highly valued by parents across the community. Parents appreciate leaders' work in curriculum adaptations, creating time and space for stilling and forging strong relationships for specific pupils. This ensures that pupils, including those who are deemed vulnerable flourish, even at difficult times in their life.

There is a significant emphasis, on ensuring that all pupils can be change-makers and leaders of the future. Through the curriculum 'Great Eight Commitments' pupils have a rich set of experiences to become responsible citizens for the future. School community projects live out the value of service and create an active culture of responsibility. Acting both locally and globally, pupils passionately speak about the 'wows and ows' within the world. They understand how they can act to bring about meaningful change. Examples of this can be seen locally through younger pupils' work with the local retirement home and environmental allotment project. In later year groups, pupils take action to make meaningful changes at a global level. They show a sophisticated understanding of social justice and quality.

RE has a high profile and is valued in the school. Strong partnerships with the diocese and academy trust provision ensure that leaders and staff receive high-quality training. This ensures the quality of teaching in RE is strong. Leaders have a deep understanding of the curriculum and review this to reflect the community the school serves. Consequently, pupils confidently express how RE allows them to explore their own beliefs and respect the religious and cultural differences of others. They ponder on the 'big questions' these pose and consider how faith impacts life. Leaders work effectively with RE leaders within and beyond the trust to monitor and evaluate the impact of the RE. Therefore, pupils make strong progress in RE. Teacher's opportunities to assess pupils' thinking about a range of world views are not as developed as they could be. Leaders have clear plans to develop further assessment approaches as they implement the RE new syllabus. This considered approach further reflects how leaders make informed decisions that lead to adults and pupils flourishing together.

St Nicolas' vision unites the entire community, secured by their values, children and adults develop deep roots to live well and flourish together.

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

Information			
Inspection date	17 April 2024	URN	140878
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	423
Diocese	Coventry		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Coventry MAT		
Co Headteacher	Angela Parsons and Martyn Yeo		
Chair	Dawn Beasley		
Inspector	Matthew Welton	No.	2142