

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Woodside C of E Primary School	
Address	Maypole Lane, Grendon, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 2BS
School vision	
Together in God's love we inspire and grow through living life in all its fullness. (John: 10:10)	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision drives a culture that encourages pupils and adults at Woodside to live life to the full, whatever their needs or backgrounds. The vision inspires a caring and compassionate culture where wellbeing is prioritised. • Strong partnerships with local churches, schools, parents, the multi-academy trust (MAT) and the diocese enable the school community to flourish. • Inspired by the Christian vision, highly competent leaders, including governors, have transformed the life of the school by improving the learning environment. • The vision shapes the learning experience for vulnerable pupils and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), ensuring that they receive excellent support. • The vision has a positive impact on recently qualified and experienced staff. Effective development of staff expertise empowers them to reflect and improve their practice, enabling them to live life in its fullness. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the religious education (RE) curriculum to ensure consistency in curriculum coverage as pupils move through the school. • Improve the impact of collective worship on spiritual flourishing by clearly focusing on Christian-based themes as opposed to more secular topics. • Continue to embed work to develop a common language for spirituality so that pupils and adults can confidently articulate their spiritual growth. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The school's Christian vision, rooted in John 10, was formed in 2022 when the current headteacher took over. Leaders feel a new vision was necessary in order to raise hope and aspiration in the local community. Pupils and adults articulate the vision passionately and leaders use it to drive decisions. Excellent leadership has transformed the school by creating a calm and stimulating learning environment. Consequently, behaviour is exemplary across school, enabling pupils and teachers to flourish. Governors are active in the life of the school, providing support and challenge, with the pupils always at the centre of decision making. As a result of effective leadership, pupils with SEND are quickly identified and receive appropriate support for their individual needs. Parents are relieved that their children are flourishing and praise the school for being highly inclusive. For example, one said, 'This school has done more for my child in four days than another school did in three months.'</p> <p>The Christian vision inspires leaders to develop a curriculum that strives to be aspirational, inclusive and diverse. Led by the vision of living life in all its fullness, strong leaders provide relevant professional development for staff. This enables them to feel confident in their subject knowledge, enabling pupils to flourish. Christian values are displayed in each</p>	



classroom and are linked to the effective system of praise. Pupils living out the school values are praised on a recognition board and the headteacher invites them to drink hot chocolate on Fridays. This demonstrates that they are valued. Pupils have access to an exciting curriculum that builds on previous knowledge. The rich array of extra-curricular activities equips pupils to experience life in all its fullness. Pupils speak passionately about after-school clubs, trips and residential which create lasting memories. Outdoor play and learning extend pupils' appreciation of creation. The MAT plays an active role in supporting the school's curriculum and sends a Christian reflection to the school every week, which enhances spiritual development. The school has recently started its journey on spiritual development, however, pupils and adults do not have a common language to enable them to talk about their spiritual growth.

Strong partnerships with the diocese, two local churches and the MAT enable pupils and adults to flourish spiritually in collective worship. The MAT supports the school by employing a Christian distinctiveness adviser who monitors the Christian ethos of the school. Worship is brought to life when the 'Open the Book' team visit school. This group of volunteers from different churches in the parish comes together to share Bible stories. Pupils enjoy taking part in lively dramatisation, which helps them to gain a good knowledge of Bible stories. Worship invites those present to consider ways to take action in the service of others. Pupils and staff participate in a way that is comfortable for them, regardless of belief or background. The school community enjoys singing during collective worship and visit St Nicholas Church to celebrate important festivals in the Christian calendar. This provides opportunities for deeper consideration of church tradition and strengthens the sense of community. Class worship takes place weekly, however, it focuses on secular topics, rather than Christian-based themes.

The Christian vision ensures that everyone is treated well. Led by the vision, the school has strategies in place to promote good mental health and wellbeing for pupils and adults alike. Pupils treat each other with kindness and respect. They are nurtured and can approach staff if they are struggling. This enables them to be happy and flourish. School leaders listen to staff and provide appropriate continuing professional development to support their professional journeys. Recently qualified staff are enabled to take on new roles. Staff are consulted about decisions and are confident to express their ideas as they know they will be valued. Staff particularly appreciate the flexibility afforded by senior management, who are kind and considerate towards them. The MAT places a strong emphasis on work/life balance to enable staff to flourish. There is a rule prohibiting communication during evenings and weekends. All staff are entitled to a 'work/ life balance day' each year, supporting them to live life in all its fullness. The headteacher is particularly caring and compassionate and seems to 'know how staff are feeling as they walk through the door.' She personally visits the homes of the most vulnerable pupils before they start at the school, not only providing support for the pupils, but for their families too. Diversity is a strength at Woodside, where difference is celebrated and supported as all are equally important in the life of the school. The junior leadership and the equality and diversity teams help to drive school improvement. As a result of the Christian vision, leaders provide excellent support for vulnerable pupils. For example, some pupils are collected from home and offered breakfast before they start school.

Creating an active culture of justice and responsibility has taken a different direction at Woodside this year. Instead of supporting pupil-led initiatives in the UK or elsewhere in the world, the school has understandably had to focus inwardly in response to a bereavement. Enabling that person's legacy to live on, the vision has empowered pupils to be agents of change. Pupils have taken part in an 'act of kindness day' encouraging them to support their local community, for example, by litter picking. In response to trauma, the pupils have been involved in redeveloping the pond by decorating and placing stones around it. By doing so they have embraced their responsibility of supporting the school community to heal.

Pupils enjoy RE at Woodside and gain sequential knowledge about a range of faiths. The subject has a high priority in the school because leaders recognise its role in supporting pupils' knowledge of the diverse world in which they live. Excellent partnerships with the MAT and the



Birmingham Diocesan Board of Education staff help support the school, enabling leaders to keep up to date with recent changes about how Christianity should be taught. The school makes provision for Christianity to be taught as a diverse and global living faith. Pupils benefit from the strong partnerships with local churches and have been gifted their own Bible. Opportunities to enhance the learning through visits to places of worship are also carefully planned. Pupils take part in the Derby Faith trail and talk passionately about the annual multi-faith week. A connection with an Islamic faith school helps pupils to learn more about each other's lives and faiths. The RE curriculum is carefully mapped out across each year group, using the local syllabus and additional resources to support the teaching of Christianity. However, the curriculum is not always balanced and accurate as set out in the expectations for RE in Church of England schools.

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

Information			
School	Woodside Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	16 April 2024
URN	140153	VC/VA/Academy	Academy inspected as VC
Diocese/District	Birmingham	Pupils on roll	215
MAT/Federation	The Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Natasha Johnson		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Sarah Smith		
Inspector	Cressida Dolphin	No.	C. 23/24