

# Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Laurence's Church of England Primary School

## Vision

'These three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.' 1 Corinthians 13

'Growing in Faith, Living in Hope, Learning to Love'

## Strengths

- The Christian vision shines out at this wonderfully vibrant and welcoming school. Leaders have a deep understanding of the community they serve. This ensures their work is effective in supporting pupils and adults to flourish.
- The curriculum is well sequenced, rich and broad, enabling pupils to live well and learn together. Learning is ambitious.
- Collective worship is inspirational and highly valued. The spirituality of pupils and adults is enriched by thought provoking questions, reflection and prayer. Pupils' engagement and enthusiasm enables them to recognise the positive impact collective worship has on their lives in school, at home and in the wider community.
- The school is resolutely determined that all pupils will thrive and succeed. Inspiring leaders, working alongside committed adults, focus on the nurture of pupils. As a result, pupils, including those with additional needs, succeed in a loving and safe environment.
- Behaviour is superb. Pupils have a strong sense of their responsibility to themselves and each other. They respect the school's focus on forgiveness and reconciliation and relish the opportunity to become young leaders.
- Leadership of religious education (RE) ensures that the subject is a highly respected and rigorously planned. Pupils understand the purpose of the subject and how this supports them in the development of their understanding of how to live in harmony.

## Development Points

- Extend pupils' understanding of how they can use social action projects to become messengers of justice in their community.
- Embed and adapt the innovative new RE syllabus to the school context to create a curriculum which enables pupils to become knowledgeable 'worldview explorers.'



## Inspection Findings

This happy, welcoming and inclusive school serves its diverse community with an abundance of faith, hope and love. The school's Christian vision vibrantly drives and enhances the decisions and actions undertaken by the inspirational leadership team. They have created a confident, harmonious and successful community committed to each other. Leaders and staff carefully evaluate and continuously improve provision for pupils so that it meets their needs effectively. Pupils academic and personal flourishing is central to the work of the adults who care for them. The language and intentions of the vision are clearly understood, articulated and acted upon by pupils. However, the school goes beyond being a place of learning. It knows its community well and reaches out with faith and love. It provides its families with practical help to live successful lives and seeks to support them when they face challenges. The school is rightly held in high regard by its community as a beacon of hope. Parents are proud of how their children display the impact of the school's Christian vision at home. The governing body is robust in its support for the school. It monitors all aspects of school life with diligence, using the vision as a force for decision making.

The rich and varied curriculum, shaped by the Christian vision, is focused on enabling pupils to flourish. Subjects are linked together to enhance pupils' appreciation of the world and their place in it. Exceptional leadership ensures pupils receive appropriate support for their individual needs. Provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is caring and effective. Across the curriculum, the school has a continuously evolving drive to develop spirituality. Pupils thrive spiritually as they consider how to use their learning to act compassionately. This means that the curriculum powerfully reflects the vision, which benefits pupils' learning. The school has strong and beneficial partnerships with the clergy team from St Laurence's church and the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust (DMAT). These successful partnerships are central to offering pupils a wide range of valuable opportunities to reach their potential. Together the partnerships inspire the staff team to meet the needs of their community. Pupils are proud of their school and their learning. Parents are very positive about the wider curriculum offer which makes the school an exciting place to learn.

Collective worship is a powerful expression of the vision. It is central to daily life at St Laurence's. It provides a special time of thought, reflection and spirituality at the beginning of each school day. As the school gathers to share worship, the sense of community is strengthened. Familiar Anglican traditions, such as lighting a candle or sharing a Bible verse, give space for contemplation and spiritual development. Pupils recognise and value the significance of these. They connect the school's Christian vision to biblical teaching and their own lives. Careful use is made of music and multi media images to create a calm and purposeful atmosphere. Pupils enjoy this time together. There are high levels of engagement and participation. The programme of collective worship is planned jointly with the church. Staff and clergy have skilfully built a programme which offers structures for reflection, response, prayer and songs. Pupils appreciate the many opportunities for interaction such as the embedded routines for the discussion of thoughts and feelings. They think deeply about how to put into practice what they have heard and seen in worship. Pupils and adults are encouraged to stop and think, which enables them to reflect and flourish spiritually. The school community values the weekly worship held at St Laurence's church. It makes a significant contribution to the way adults and pupils flourish spiritually.

At St Laurence's the school vision drives the behaviour policy and high expectations are set for everybody. Pupils highly respect their peers and the adults who work in the school. This results in the behaviour of pupils being exemplary and parents regarding the school as a haven. Social times are harmonious. Pupils are happy and proud of their school. Adults know pupils well and skilfully support their positive mental health and wellbeing. Pupils and parents know there is always an adult to help them whenever they face challenges. In this area of high mobility, the school provides a high level of care for families. Staff are very happy to work here. They are a strong team, drawing on each other's strengths to offer support during difficult times. Staff are hugely appreciative of



the care they are shown and the unwavering support the leadership team gives them. They particularly welcome the encouragement they receive to develop their skills and to gain national professional qualifications.

The school's Christian vision is reflected in the wide range of ways pupils are inspired to help. The head boy and girl, house captains and members of the many leadership teams are terrific ambassadors for the school. They are determined to model good leadership and positive behaviour to the whole school community. Pupils gain understanding of rights and responsibility through their leadership roles. They have a deep understanding of justice and reconciliation through the school's work as an International Cross of Nails Schools (ICONS). This has developed the principles of peace, forgiveness, conflict transformation and reconciliation across the school community. It has a significant impact on attitudes and relationships. Pupils think deeply about social questions and ethical choices through the weekly focus on local and wider issues. They care passionately about everyone's needs. The pupils know why the actions of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King were important campaigners for equality. Pupils are very clear that their voices are heard in the school and local community. The curriculum enables pupils to recognise injustice. They have less experience of collective action for global change.

Leadership of RE is skilful and passionate. The subject has a high priority and is a strength of the school. The well sequenced curriculum is carefully planned to build on pupil's understanding. Pupils have a secure knowledge of the topics they have studied and can make connections between different ideas. Pupils feel secure and confident allowing them to ask questions and explore their own beliefs and views. The Coventry Diocesan Board of Education (CDBE) enable staff to be supported with relevant training to deliver high quality RE lessons. Less confident staff benefit from knowledgeable support from the subject leader. The use of visitors, often parents, and visits to places of worship, develop an appreciation of diversity. Pupils are proud of Coventry cathedral. They reflect spiritually on the cross made from two charred oak beams found in the ruins of the old cathedral after the Blitz. The school has made strong steps to embed the new religion and worldviews syllabus from CDBE. This complements the knowledge pupils already have of how beliefs are interpreted and embodied in diverse ways locally and around the world.

## Information

Address	Old Church Road, Coventry CV6 7ED		
Date	24 September 2024	URN	139383
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	411
Diocese	Coventry		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Coventry multi academy trust (DMAT).		
Headteacher	Michelle Cuskelly		
Chair of Governors	Jayne Scott		
Inspector	Gillian Paterson		