

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Luke's Church of England Academy, Endon

Vision

'Helping Lights Shine for All' Luke 11:33

St Luke's CE Academy is a loving family that has a heart to be at the centre of the community. Our pupils learn to be positive change makers looking to our own and others' needs. This is underpinned by a holistic approach to life with the golden thread of our Christian values.

We aspire to our actions and attitudes being underpinned by 'The 5Bs of Great Learning' which are based on different biblical characters:

Be honest, considerate, positive, determined and be the best you can be.

St Luke's Church of England Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- Pupils and adults' lights shine at St Luke's because of its deeply rooted and aspirational Christian vision. This is instrumental in changing the lives of pupils and adults for the better.
- Insightful leaders promote a culture of love and nurture for all including those who have special educational needs and/or disability (SEND). The collaboration between the school and multi-academy trust (MAT) enables pupils and adults to thrive.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum provides thought-provoking and challenging learning experiences that build on prior learning. This extends pupils' understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews.
- Pupils have a deep understanding of justice and are confident to express their views. An extensive programme of pupil leadership roles further enables the vision of pupils making a difference in God's world.
- An embedded and shared understanding of spirituality enriches spiritual growth across the school community.

Development Points

- Refine adults' understanding of the differences between worship and RE. This is so the uniqueness of both deepens the experiences offered to pupils.
- Through effective partnerships, share the Christian vision of 'lights shining for all' beyond St Luke's. This is to widen the reach of the Christian vision in serving and supporting others to shine.



Inspection Findings

St Luke's Church of England Academy 'helps lights to shine' ensuring pupils and adults have opportunities to flourish. This vision-focused approach drives the school forward and so policies, practices and the curriculum reflect its ambition. Leaders have high expectations and are passionate in ensuring the very best for their pupils and staff. This allows pupils and adults to gain confidence and celebrate their unique talents. The Local Academy Council (LAC) has a clear and evaluative understanding of how the vision drives action across the school. Beneficial partnerships with Staffordshire University Academies Trust (SUAT) and Lichfield Diocese strengthen the impact of the Christian vision. Consequently, leaders' constant review of the impact of their decisions creates a dynamic culture of development and improvement. This enriches the effectiveness of St Luke's as a Church school.

Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders are determined that the curriculum leads to the holistic development of pupils. They seek to be inclusive by identifying what each pupil needs to feel valued and fulfilled. Specific needs are identified quickly. This is reinforced through rapid support with adaptations to learning, ensuring inclusion is impactful within the classroom. Parents and carers speak highly about how the school supports pupils to 'be the best that they can be'. The stimulating curriculum based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, broadens pupils' viewpoints of the world. An extensive, well-planned and accessible extracurricular programme further expands pupils' learning experiences. Consequently, through all the opportunities offered, pupils love school and attendance is high. The school has a deeply embedded and shared understanding of spirituality. Opportunities for spiritual development are explicit within curriculum planning and consistently available across school. Through naturally supportive relationships, staff and pupils feel comfortable to share personal spiritual experiences. As a result, pupils have the confidence to express what spirituality means to them.

Pupils are enthusiastic about collective worship and enjoy the opportunity to lead, sing, act and play music. Monitoring collective worship by pupils is reflective and thoughtful, enhancing the way worship is meaningful to them. Christian values are reinforced through biblical stories, and lived out in pupils' actions. The opportunity to worship before the transition home, allows for stillness and reflection and is cherished. Staff appreciate daily worship 'to be in the moment' and to have space to put life's priorities into perspective. Pupils and adults experience considerable spiritual growth through the many opportunities provided. Pupils from all year groups can give examples of how they grow spiritually through opportunities in worship and the curriculum. They clearly identify opportunities in the day for reflection including using the spiritual garden. The spiritual garden is an important place for bereaved pupils past and present. Beyond collective worship, pupils have access to prayer spaces which are meaningful to them, providing opportunities to reflect and develop spiritually. However, at times, within these prayer areas, there is blurring of the distinctive differences between worship and RE. A strong partnership with local churches enriches collective worship, including through a Bible storytelling drama group. Weekly community worship, combined with opportunities to share Christian festivals in church extend opportunities for adults, pupils to grow spiritually.

Staff know they are valued and supported by a committed leadership team. Manageable workloads and wellbeing strategies are given high priority by leaders. This impacts positively on the school community allowing them to thrive together. Staff create a nurturing and caring environment for pupils and their families.



This results in a strong sense of the school being like a caring family that actively help each other. Parents passionately value the support they have from St Luke's especially in times of difficulty. Staff are given many developmental opportunities to professionally grow in their careers. Pupils relish leadership opportunities such as supporting younger children. Examples include older pupils making Nativity books for those in Reception to mark the start of Advent. The vision and values are lived out daily and are central to pupil wellbeing. Behaviour is exemplary throughout school. Consequently, the school is a happy, safe environment where pupils and adults work well together.

RE is knowledgeably led and is viewed as a high priority subject by ambitious school leaders. This creates a dynamic culture of ongoing review to ensure it meets the needs of the learner. Consequently, this continual review ensures the curriculum is filled with creative and fruitful experiences. Frequent research into the RE curriculum ensures pupils gain the most creative and fruitful experiences. Knowledge, skills and vocabulary are carefully mapped out in curriculum planning which enhances staff expertise. Consequently, the curriculum enhances pupils' understanding of a range of worldviews and faiths, including Christianity. They have a clear knowledge of the diverse ways religions such as Christianity are celebrated throughout the world. Pupils enjoy opportunities to develop critical thinking through different resources. They are confident in sharing their thoughts with others and are respectful of different views on faith. The library has many RE books that pupils regularly read to independently gain knowledge. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic about learning in RE.

Through the Christian vision, leaders create a strong culture of fairness and responsibility. Year 6 pupils 'leave a legacy' by thoughtfully choosing three charities for the school to support the following year. Pupils make meaningful decisions based on their understanding of the world. Therefore, pupils and staff go 'the extra mile' in thinking of others, using their sense of personal responsibility to make a difference. Pupils visit a local home for the elderly taking gifts that they have made. Supportive letters written by pupils help people in the community through difficult times. Donations of school uniform, and food for the foodbank, are shared with the community. During Advent, a reverse calendar for toy and food donations encourages pupils to think of others as they prepare for Christmas. These actions demonstrate that pupils are taking responsibility for making positive changes in their local area. Pupils understand how they can challenge poverty and injustice globally. For example, the extent for which pupils advocate for toilet twinning raises the awareness of this within the community. Pupils' understanding of their personal responsibility shines beyond the school and impacts on the choices of others. Leaders are ambitious to extend the way their Christian vision enhances partnerships, widening collaborative opportunities to shine.

Information

Address	Leek Road, Endon, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9EB		
Date	02 December 2024	URN	145833
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	211
Diocese/District	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	Staffordshire University Academies Trust (SUAT)		
Headteacher	Nicky Danylyk		
Chair of Governors	Sue Gibbons		
Inspector	Anne Collins		