

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Dawley Church of England Primary Academy

Vision

‘Enriching Learning, Enriching Life’

‘I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.’ (John 10:10)

Our vision is to develop flourishing, caring children, equipping them with the skills and values to live life to the full. Our aspiration is for our whole school community to be people of hope and peace, who love and trust themselves, others and God.

‘Love, Peace, Hope and Trust’ are the foundations for the ethos and teaching in our Academy and, through our daily acts of worship and our distinctive Religious Education curriculum, it enables the spiritual development of all.

Dawley Church of England Primary 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

- The school is a haven of love, peace, trust and hope in this community. Lives are positively transformed because of the school’s Christian vision.
- School leaders are whole-hearted about providing an ambitious curriculum which enables pupils to live life in all its fullness. This common purpose is strengthened through effective partnerships with St Chad’s Academy Trust and the Diocese of Lichfield.
- Dawley Church of England Primary Academy is a place where people are welcomed, cared for and feel safe. In this nurturing environment pupils are valued as individuals, grow in confidence and flourish holistically.
- Collective worship times are wonderful expressions of shared love and joy, contributing to the spiritual growth of pupils and adults.
- Pupils enjoy religious education (RE) and appreciate that it helps them to grow in an understanding of themselves and others. This is because the subject is led and taught with enthusiasm and skill. RE lessons ensure that pupils develop a secure knowledge of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Development Points

- Strengthen the shared language of spirituality. This is so that adults and pupils can identify and articulate spiritual experiences with greater clarity.
- Enhance the RE curriculum so that pupils learn more about the variety of belief and practice within a religion. This is so that they can develop a better understanding of diversity among people of faith.



Inspection Findings

Dawley Church of England Primary Academy is a very special place where people are nurtured to live life in all its fullness. Devoted school leaders and staff serve this community with infectious love, peace, hope and trust. These Christian values are lived out within what pupils and adults describe as the 'Dawley family'. School leaders consider deeply what is best for its pupils, their parents and carers, staff and the local community. They honour the worth of others and go out of their way to meet individual academic, spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs. School leaders prioritise the importance of developing loving and trusting relationships. By so doing this community is enabling each other to live life to the full. It is a welcoming and peaceful place for people, regardless of background or belief. Governors are resolute about ensuring that the Christian vision is at the heart of the school's policies and practice. Leaders and staff appreciate the support of the Diocese of Lichfield. They evaluate provision so that the school constantly improves and builds on its Christian foundations. As a member of the St Chad's Academy Trust, the school's Christian vision is strengthened through mutual encouragement and professional training. Consequently, the school is continually moving forward to give the hope of a bright future for pupils and adults.

The school recognises the importance of adults and pupils feeling valued and fulfilled. Staff across the school feel trusted and encouraged to maximise their own professional gifts, ideas and talents. They find joy in their work and are deeply invested in meeting the individual needs of their pupils. A warm and homely atmosphere wraps around every pupil with high levels of support for emotional and mental wellbeing. Consequently, they feel safe and are enabled to be the best version of themselves that they can be. Vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) thrive in this loving and aspirational atmosphere. The curriculum is regularly reviewed and adapted to ensure that pupils flourish and live life in all its fullness. Time is given throughout the school day to appreciate beauty, to wonder, to have fun, to reflect and to pray. As a result, pupils grow spiritually but don't find it easy to express their experiences deeply. This is because the school has not fully embedded a way of talking about spiritual things together. Pupils respect the viewpoints of others as they learn to be curious, debate and discuss well.

Collective worship is a precious, holy and spiritual time that is valued by pupils and adults. It brings people together to celebrate the love and joy that are prevalent in relationships and attitudes throughout the day. School leaders ensure that there is a familiar and comforting pattern for daily collective worship which allows people to be still and at ease. It includes a welcome and a shared prayer such as the Lord's Prayer led by pupils. Every day, there is space for spiritual growth as pupils reflect and pray. Pupils listen intently and have time to make connections between Bible stories, Christian values and their own lives. Collective worship times are deeply enriched by strong links with the local parish church. Members of the clergy, who are well known to staff and pupils, lead worship weekly in school or in church. These are inspirational times of learning and growing together spiritually. Pupils understand the rhythm of the Christian year as they celebrate festivals such as Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent and Easter. The Christian vision is deeply apparent as adults and pupils rejoice together in song.

Motivated by its vision, the school extends its heart of love and joy to the wider community. Adults in the school and trust are outstanding role models who relate to people considerately and equitably. Consequently, pupils treat others with dignity and respect. They learn about historical and current world events and develop strong responses about what is just and fair. The Christian vision is realised as pupils show compassion in practical ways within the local community. Staff encourage them to be 'secret agents' of change. For example, they are emphatic about wanting the local environment to be a peaceful and beautiful place for others. This urges pupils to willingly



undertake litter-picking projects inside and outside of school. They also donate generously to a local foodbank or initiate a sponsored walk to put their care into practical action. In such ways pupils demonstrate their responsibility towards others.

Enthusiastic school and trust leaders are wholly committed to ensure that RE is a subject of high importance. They understand its unique place in preparing pupils to live life to the full in a diverse community. The subject is strengthened by a sharing of professional expertise and training within the diocese and trust. School leaders have devotedly developed an effective curriculum for RE. It enables pupils to deepen their knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious viewpoints year on year. For example, pupils speak with impressive confidence about the main beliefs of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. However, pupils' understanding of how the beliefs and practices of people within the same religion might vary is less secure.

Pupils are enthusiastic and excited because RE is taught skilfully and creatively throughout the school. Subject expertise, planning and high-quality resources are shared effectively by school leaders. Pupils assess their own learning and teaching staff provide the support and challenge required for them to make solid progress. RE becomes particularly real and memorable when pupils share their own experiences of faith, for example, as a Muslim, Christian or Sikh. RE lessons are enriched by pupils debating big questions and reflecting on their own thoughts and beliefs. In this trusting and loving environment, they are profoundly well prepared to live respectfully with others.

Dawley Church of England Primary Academy is a beacon of hope. It draws people together to look up and believe that life is to be lived to the full. Trusting relationships enable staff to work in close co-operation with parents and carers. Consequently, pupils feel secure and are enabled to flourish. Learning and loving well is encouraged and celebrated with fellowship awards. In turn, pupils realise the pride in achievement, grow in confidence and have hope for the future. The practices of forgiveness and reconciliation have a significant impact as they result in peace of mind. There is a wonderful sense of unconditional love and compassion which is shared throughout this school community. People care deeply about the welfare of each other. This is particularly evident when people respond with selfless, loving kindness in times of practical and emotional need. Love, peace, trust and hope ripple outwards and the school's Christian vision becomes a reality.

Information

Address	Doseley Road North, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire TF4 3AL		
Date	22 January 2025	URN	142785
Type of school	Academy (Inspected as Voluntary Aided)	No. of pupils	199
Diocese	Diocese of Lichfield		
MAT	St Chad's Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Nicholas Andrews		
Chair of Governors	Emma Oakley		
Inspector	Angela Daniel		