

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Church of the Ascension C of E Primary School

Vision

'Learn with Love, Flourish in Faith'

'Do everything in love' (1 Corinthians 16:14)

As an inclusive Christian school, Church of the Ascension C.E Primary School aims to create a loving, caring and respectful community, where individuals can flourish spiritually, socially and academically as children of God in a rich learning environment.

Our vision is to inspire lifelong learning, whilst encouraging resilience, independence, aspiration and an appreciation of God's wonderful world.

Church of the Ascension CofE Primary School 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's deeply embedded Christian vision successfully drives leaders' strategic decisions. As a result, pupils and adults flourish as the school community thrives.
- Collective worship is rooted in biblical teaching and the exploration of Christian values. It is inspirational, inclusive and has a transformative impact on the spiritual lives of pupils and adults.
- Pastoral care and a focus on wellbeing, ensures that pupils and adults are treated well. This generates a high level of compassion, especially for those in the school community who need additional support.
- Partnerships with local schools, the church and The Elements Diocesan Learning Trust (EDLT) enrich the provision provided for the pupils. This supports the whole school community to learn, grow and flourish.
- The rich religious education (RE) curriculum is well-developed. Effective leadership ensures ongoing staff training and the subject's high profile.

Development Points

- Ensure further opportunities for pupils to recognise injustice. This is to support their ability to act and make a positive difference to the world around them.
- Continue to strengthen pupils' experience of spirituality throughout the curriculum. This is to extend and deepen their responses to spiritual questions and themes.



Inspection Findings

The school emanates a powerful sense of belonging and togetherness, driven by its vision. The desire for pupils and adults to 'learn with love' and 'flourish with faith' is a living reality. The biblically rooted school vision effectively shapes school policies, practices and developments. As a result, pupils and adults instinctively care for each other. The desire to 'do everything in love' creates a warmth and welcome that is recognised and celebrated. Pupils are motivated by the vision-inspired values and feel a deep sense of pride in their school. Consequently, these values are continually seen in action across all age groups. Leaders champion the importance of inclusion, which is at the heart of the school's vision. This ensures that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families flourish. Adults cherish the impact of the school vision that helps them on their unique journeys through life. Effective evaluation systems enable governors to have a secure understanding of the school. They use the Christian vision as the basis for decision-making. As a result, the continual drive for improvement provides pupils and adults with the best environment to flourish.

The vision inspires leaders to provide engaging learning experiences across the curriculum. For example, pupils are immersed in rich activities that foster skills and understanding of the world around them. Consequently, they are continually learning new skills and demonstrate high levels of respect for others. The vision galvanises effective partnerships with the diocese and with schools within the EDLT. This provision has further enabled the sharing of expertise. Such partnerships successfully provide valuable opportunities for collaboration, as well as develop staff in their own career progression. The school's journey in developing its understanding of spirituality across the curriculum is progressing. However, routine planning for this to be embedded is at an early stage. Pupils develop resilience from a young age, with specialist staff in place to nurture those in need of support. Big questions effectively enhance deep thought and contemplation. Individual reflective journals are effectively used weekly to provide time and space for this process. As a result, there is a palpable atmosphere of appreciation and love within this thriving school community.

Leaders' inclusive approach to collective worship ensures successful engagement throughout the school community. Staff utilise expertise from the local church and beyond. These strong relationships, lived out from the school's vision, enrich opportunities for spiritual flourishing. Multiple opportunities are provided for pupils to lead, in a variety of capacities. These range from planning acts of worship to being part of committees that evaluate provision and instigate actions for improvement. This contributes to consistently high-quality acts of collective worship and results in pupils' and adults' rich spiritual flourishing. Effective storytelling brings to life familiar narratives from the Bible. This inspires pupils' positive morals and connects the school's values to their actions. Friday celebration worship, for example, effectively links the school's inclusive vision to pupils' achievements. The values nomination system showcases the pride they have in the school's Christian values. Consequently, staff nurture pupils to be effective role models throughout the year groups. There are rich opportunities for spiritual growth within worship. Moments of stillness and contemplation are valued by pupils and adults alike. These are enabled with the provision of reflective areas within classrooms, as well as around the school. As a result, the spiritual flourishing in pupils and adults is widely evident.

Leaders have established a stable and nurturing environment for the whole school community. This is driven by the school vision and championed by staff. Behaviour management is centred on restorative conversations. Pupils who require support are effectively nurtured by innovative approaches to discuss and explain emotions. Leaders invest in procuring and training specialist staff to cater for the needs of the community. As a result, the school pervades a



sense of calm and warmth that is valued by pupils and adults. The school's adopted approach to mental health and wellbeing is embedded, informing successful targeted interventions. Leaders, inspired by the school's Christian vision, facilitate strong relationships across the classes. Pupils of all ages mix and there is a remarkable culture of compassion. They notice when others are feeling sad or left out and are proactive in remedying these occasional situations. This further shows how the vision, and specifically the value of respect, positively impacts on the life of the school. Focused provision is carefully tailored to meet the individual needs of pupils. Consequently, the school has created an inclusive culture where pupils and adults demonstrate genuine care for one another.

The school's vision inspires a culture of justice for others. It is enhanced by the opportunities for pupils to show kindness in their actions towards their peers. Leaders champion pupils who have made a difference, acknowledging their positive impact on those around them. Trips and experiences such as visits to the local food bank also develop pupils' awareness. This has led to successful initiatives and lobbying to improve provision in the locality for the benefit of many. These projects are born from the vision and help pupils understand how people respond to matters of injustice. However, further rich opportunities enabling them to become agents for positive change are at an early stage of development. Fundraising efforts for charities are meaningful. Consequently, there is a successful culture of responsibility towards others, where strong relationships blossom.

The RE curriculum is carefully planned and mapped out. This ensures that learning is systematically built upon and extended as pupils move through the school. It is given a high status by pupils and adults alike. Pupils' knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews is impressive. They speak confidently about the importance of RE and their desire to 'respect everyone's beliefs.' Trips and visits successfully enhance learning in RE, offering tangible experiences of a wide range of faiths and beliefs. As a result, pupils are insightful and knowledgeable about the diverse world around them. Leaders' strong partnership between the EDLT and diocese allows staff to utilise training and support to enhance the curriculum. As a result, staff are equipped to facilitate RE effectively.

Information

Address	Dudley Road, Wall Heath, Kingswinford. DY6 9AH		
Date	6 February 2025	URN	148864
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	312
Diocese	Worcester		
MAT	Elements Diocesan Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Lindsay Mason		
Chair of Governors	Deborah Brown		
Inspector	David Scorer		