

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church Church of England Primary Academy

Vision

We are one Christ-like family seeking to achieve our school aims and allowing all to flourish by demonstrating the same endurance, friendship, dignity and respect as the Good Samaritan did with respect as our key. We will achieve this by demonstrating respect in all that we do as we live life together just as the Good Samaritan did.

We take inspiration from the words of Jesus. Treating others as we would want to be treated (Luke 6:31). The key message behind the story of the Good Samaritan.

Christ Church 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

- Engaging, daily collective worship is at the heart of school life. This is enriched by enthusiastic singing, exploration of the Bible and a strong partnership with the local church. It offers experiences that enable pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.
- Religious education (RE) is passionately and skilfully led, creating a challenging curriculum that promotes clear progression. It is well planned to serve the needs of this diverse community. Through it, pupils are provided with rich opportunities to study and reflect on a range of religions and worldviews.
- The Christian vision binds partners together in a culture of deep mutual respect in which the community treats one another well. Leaders ensure adults and pupils feel safe and are able to flourish in this caring school where diversity is celebrated.
- This diverse community is passionate and outward looking, responding to the needs of others in a variety of contexts. This provides opportunities for pupils to understand and live out the story of the Good Samaritan.
- The vision motivates and inspires Christ Church's committed leaders and determined staff at all levels. It influences their decisions and actions about the development of the school's work and each aspect of its daily life. As a result, pupils are able to live life in all its fullness.

Development Points

- Strengthen the development of a shared vocabulary for spirituality in the school. This will allow pupils and adults to be able to effectively articulate their understanding of spirituality.
- Establish a formal system for the local academy committee (LAC) to monitor and evaluate the impact of the school's Christian vision. This is to enable every LAC member to be fully aware of this aspect of the school's work.



Inspection Findings

Christ Church is a school in which pupils and adults are encouraged to realise their God given potential. Through supporting and serving their community to 'learn with God and each other to be the best that they can be'. Pupils are welcomed with love and care by leaders and staff at Christ Church. This is a school where diversity is celebrated with mutual respect at its centre. The community flourish together at Christ Church by living out the vision and values in their everyday actions. The biblical teaching that underpins the Christian vision, 'to treat others as you wish to be treated,' shapes daily life. Leaders have a clear understanding of the school due to their robust monitoring of the impact of the vision. They can effectively communicate the impact of this on the school and the wider community. Leaders ensure that pupils and adults feel safe at Christ Church. They provide them with ample opportunities to flourish, with support from the multi academy trust (MAT) and the diocese. LAC members understand the needs of this community. However, there is no formal system for them to monitor and evaluate the impact of the school's Christian vision.

The Christian vision inspires a school curriculum that pupils find to be motivating and engaging. It is designed and adapted to ensure that it meets the needs of its diverse community. Staff demonstrate exceptional dedication in supporting vulnerable pupils. This includes those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those who have English as an additional language. This is inspired through the Christian belief that each person is a valued member of God's family. Staff ensure that pupils' needs are fully met. There is equal access to the enriching learning experiences and extracurricular clubs that Christ Church has to offer. A wide range of opportunities include the experience of visiting London and learning how to play a musical instrument. Together these enable pupils to flourish socially and spiritually. School leaders' understanding and emphasis on the importance of spirituality, has led them to its thoughtful integration throughout the curriculum. They have also created a definition for spirituality at Christ Church. Pupils and adults are given time to reflect on self, others, beauty and wonder. This fosters a culture of personal growth and reflection for the school community. However, the absence of a shared language to discuss spirituality limits their ability to articulate its meaning and deepen their understanding of it.

Daily collective worship is viewed as a precious time for the school community to come together. Pupils and adults take part in joyful singing in their praise and worship which promotes a sense of belonging and unity. Songs and hymns are carefully chosen to reflect the Christian vision. Moments of silent reflection within worship and throughout the day allows time to reflect spiritually on the message shared. Christ Church has close links to the local church which further enhances the spiritual flourishing through worship. Alongside leaders of the school and the vicar, worship ambassadors plan and lead important services in the Christian calendar. This builds the confidence of the pupils through being involved with services in various settings. Parents are also welcomed to these gatherings which brings the whole community together. Through worship, pupils and adults can relate Bible teachings to their everyday lives. This allows them to consider and reflect upon how they can treat others how they would like to be treated.

The school provides a strong culture of nurture and care to ensure that pupils enjoy each day. They also take pride in having friendship ambassadors who contribute to this supportive environment. Pupils and staff appreciate the emphasis on wellbeing. Staff note how the focus on positive mental health from leaders and the MAT enables them to flourish. Each day, relaxing music is played throughout school which provides a calm and purposeful environment for learning. Staff provide genuine and caring support to each other, both professionally and personally, creating a strong team ethos. They offer compassionate assistance to parents during challenging times



and to assist with practical aspects of life. The guidance and help they receive is deeply appreciated. This further strengthens the school's relationship with parents.

Making a positive change in the world is important to pupils at Christ Church. Using the message of the Good Samaritan, they actively seek ways that they can help others. They fundraise for a number of organisations and more recently, the pupils themselves made and sold friendship bracelets to raise money for charity. Pupils also donated educational equipment when one of their teachers visited a school in Kenya. They have also written to the local council because the wider community were having issues with damaged surfacing on the public play area. As a result of their letters, a new surface was laid. This highlights that they recognise how they can be agents of change in their local community. At Christ Church, it is highly important for pupils to have opportunities to assume roles of responsibility. They have the opportunity to be e-safety and friendship ambassadors so they understand how their actions can make a positive difference. For example, pupils could articulate how traveling to school by scooter instead of by car was helping to care for the environment.

Passionately and skilfully led, RE at Christ Church presents a challenging curriculum that promotes clear progression from Nursery to Year 6. The subject has a high profile and meets the requirements for a Church school. Support from the diocese and MAT has provided staff with high quality professional development for the planning and resourcing of RE. This has resulted in the subject being well planned by staff to serve the needs of their diverse community. The curriculum nurtures the values of dignity and respect which are key to the school's Christian vision. The RE curriculum includes visits to places of worship, allowing pupils to study and reflect on a range of religions and worldviews. Pupils have a well-developed understanding of Christianity as a worldwide faith, embracing its diversity and global significance. As a result, they readily say that RE helps them to understand and show respect to people who have different views.

Information

Address	1 William Street, Fenton, Stoke on Trent, ST4 2JG		
Date	28 November 2024	URN	146155
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	220
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT	St Chad's Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Paula Scattergood		
Chair of Governors	Colin Parkes		
Inspector	Emma Fern		