



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

St Matthew's Church of England VA Primary School, Donnington Wood	
Address	Church Road Donnington Wood, Telford, TF2 7PZ

School vision
<p>Rooted in our Christian values and TEAM spirit we will aspire to be an innovative and inspiring community where every individual is provided with the opportunity to flourish spiritually, morally, emotionally, physically and intellectually.</p> <p>We are 'individuals working together to potential with God' so 'I can do all things because Christ gives me strength' Philippians 4:13</p>

School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school's Christian vision is well-embedded. It is lived out in daily life through well-established values of thankfulness, enjoyment, ambition and mission. As a result, pupils and adults flourish.</li> <li>• Dedicated staff are unwavering in their nurture and support of pupils. This enables pupils and adults to thrive as unique individuals.</li> <li>• Staff and pupils are treated with dignity and respect. Morale is high and as a result people flourish because mental health and wellbeing are prioritised. Cohesive relationships exemplify the Christian vision.</li> <li>• The quality of religious education (RE) is directly attributed to the highly effective leadership of the subject. Leaders ensure RE is aspirational, innovative and thought provoking. Pupils are knowledgeable about a range of worldview and faiths, including Christianity and readily articulate their learning and understanding.</li> <li>• Pastoral care and support are highly effective. This enables the St Matthew's community to thrive through the deeply loving culture which permeates through the school.</li> </ul>

Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance opportunities for pupils to strengthen their emerging sense of social action. This is so they can recognise the responsibility of challenging injustice within, and beyond, the school.</li> <li>• Expand opportunities to work in collaborative partnerships within the diocese and local schools. This is to deepen the impact of the Christian vision on St Matthew's through its active service to others.</li> </ul>

Inspection findings
<p>The deeply rooted Christian vision is at the heart of this vibrant school. It brings the school together as one. It drives leaders' actions, shapes policies and steers decisions. The vision is known, lived out and spoken about at every level. Pupils and adults confidently articulate the vision and associated values and demonstrate them in their daily lives. The 'TEAM' values of thankfulness, enjoyment,</p>

ambition and mission and the 3Rs of respect, resilience and responsibility are known and understood. The words of the vision act as a guiding light for pupils. They create a natural language for showing thankfulness for what they experience and how to keep going when they encounter difficulties. Consequently, they are lived out each day through the actions and decisions made by adults and pupils.

Despite challenges and obstacles in lives, pupils and adults clearly articulate how the vision guides them. It is a clear thread which is sensed from first arrival. Staff and pupils positively acknowledge how the vision supports and guides their working day.

Parents and carers recognise and value the positive message of the Christian vision and the impact it has upon pupils and the community. It is the keystone for which the success of this Church school is clearly built upon. A proactive governing body provides developmental challenge and support. Governors are knowledgeable, clear and strategic in their roles which impact on the effectiveness of this as a Church school. Their presence is valued, creating a positive partnership with staff that is driven by the Christian vision.

'I can do all things because Christ gives me strength' is the lens through which the curriculum is built. Senior leaders believe the vision changes the community. The school's proactive approach, guided by the Christian vision, illustrates the care, compassion and love for all within the community. Leaders' persistence to support pupils and families is evident and is backed by the firm belief that Christ 'gives us strength'. The vision supports, guides and strengthens the community. The school has successfully structured an ambitious school curriculum which supports the needs of learners. Leaders ensure pupils who are vulnerable and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive the best provision possible. Targeted pastoral support provides effective guidance for learners and their families. This is pivotal in gaining trust of families and maintaining the positive level of attendance in the school. Parents value the well-planned support and care they receive. Pupils who attend the 'Bubble' receive tailored interventions engineered to encourage and secure even the smallest steps of progress. The school offers a range of exciting extra-curricular opportunities which enrich the curriculum offer further.

Worship is inclusive, respectful and uplifting. The school is bathed in wonderful artwork which aids prayer, spirituality and acts as a focal point for worship. Leaders plan the pattern of worship with care reflecting the school's Christian vision and values. The 'inspire team' are proactive in their roles of planning and delivering worship in school. These contributions deepen their spiritual development. Worship provides pupils with deep and meaningful opportunities to reflect on the life of Jesus Christ and his teachings. Pupils ably recall Scripture, parables and biblical stories. Furthermore, they articulate the significances for their lives today. Spaces for worship and prayer feature both in classrooms and around the school building. Invitational spaces for prayer are valuable features. These creative and thought provoking spaces provide spiritually enriching moments for adults and pupils to pray. Consequently these experiences add to the understanding of prayer and strengthen spiritual development. Further, the opportunity for 'prayer-sacks' to be taken home by pupils opens the world of prayer to a much wider audience. Pupils proudly share images of prayer-time in their homes, the lighting of candles and the sharing of stories from the Bible. This positive initiative evidences that the school is making a difference to its community. The school has invested time and resources to firmly establish a consistent approach to spirituality. Consequently, both adults and pupils can clearly articulate what spirituality means to them. Spiritual gardens provide space to consider God's natural world and enable adults and pupils to reflect. Despite the current absence of local clergy, foundation governors are active partners in school. They support, encourage and provide opportunities for pupils to visit the local church. Parents and carers value these visits which mark the Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter and St Matthew's Day.

St Matthew's deeply expresses its Christian vision through the breadth of its day-to-day actions.

People are valued for the person they are. Staff work together effectively as a team. Whether challenges are professional or personal, members of this school community are there for each other. They pull together, support one another and show love that is inspired by the Christian foundation of the school. There is a deep centred belief that 'I can do all things because Christ gives me strength'.

The school has adopted an effective approach to the provision for SEND, good mental health and wellbeing which is guided by the vision. There is a strong satisfaction by parents for the actions of the school in supporting families. Despite challenges, staff do not give up. Highly qualified staff support pupils with specific programmes. These are adapted for individuals, focus on help in the short term and provide strategies for the longer term. These actions are driven by the Christian vision. The opinions of parents and carers are valued and are integral to decisions and actions taken for pupils. The school values its relationships with partner agencies, working together in the interests of families. The way in which the school works, creates a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well.

Pupil voice is a valued feature of school life. Adults actively listen to pupils, giving them a strong voice in various ways. Many groups such as 'inspire', 'peer buddies' and 'safeguarding and well being champions' ensure their voice is heard. Pupils have had some opportunities to take environmental action. However, their understanding of injustice is limited. Consequently, opportunities to be active agents of change beyond the school are less developed.

The well-structured RE programme provides clear progression and enables revisiting of key concepts. The subject is effectively led. Consequently, staff confidence in teaching RE is evident. A variety of faiths are taught as well as worldviews. Opportunities for pupils to encounter a breadth of worldviews and faiths including Christianity strengthens their religious literacy and understanding. Regular visits to places of worship enhance pupils' understanding and knowledge. They articulate their experiences effectively. Such opportunities provide a deeper understanding and respect of world faiths. Teachers are well-supported and trained through both partnerships with the diocese and through the deep knowledge and skill of the subject leader. Well-embedded RE resources and high-quality teaching strategies result in high pupil motivation. Pupils are curious and ask challenging questions. Valuable discussions result in a deepening of knowledge leading to more pupils achieving high standards. Meaningful marking, feedback and assessment determines the next steps in learning. Lessons are varied, creative and innovative leading pupils to take great pride in their work. Effective assessment enables leaders to gain a clear indication of consistency and understanding. Pupils at all levels are making clear progress.

The inspection findings indicate that St Matthew's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church School.

Information			
Inspection date	4 July 2024	URN	123557
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	312
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Deborah Mills		
Chair	Anna Hill		
Inspector	Shaun Miles	No.	2375