

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Alcester

Vision

At St Nicholas Church of England Primary School, our Christian vision is to ‘Dream big, shine bright’. Inspired by Matthew 5:16 – ‘Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.’

St Nicholas Church of England 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 strong Christian vision permeates everything that the school does. It drives leaders’ decisions and enables pupils and adults to flourish.
- The vision shapes a broad and enriched curriculum offer. This means that staff ensure that pupils, whatever their needs or background, can thrive.
- Inspired by the vision, pupils and staff are well cared for. School and trust leaders, supported by strong governance, ensure that there is excellent support for individuals. This includes vulnerable pupils and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Consequently, there is an inclusive culture throughout the school that ensures pupils and adults are welcomed and treated with kindness.
- The school’s active culture of justice and responsibility is underpinned by its vision. Leaders enable pupils and adults to have a strong voice. As a result, individuals make ethical choices and are proactive agents of change.
- RE is well led. This drives a challenging and relevant curriculum that ensures pupils are equipped to explore a range of faiths and worldviews.

Development Points

- Further strengthen the shared understanding, language and school-wide approach to spirituality. This is so that explicit opportunities are provided for spiritual development across the curriculum.



Inspection Findings

The deeply Christian vision permeates all aspects of school life. The linked Bible verse from Matthew 5 inspires people to 'shine'. This is seen in the positive relationships present within the school. Consequently, the actions of individuals reflect God's love and goodness. Adults draw on the Old Testament story of Joseph to encourage pupils and their families to 'dream big'. This enables pupils to participate in the wide range of curriculum and enrichment activities that the school provides. Highly effective partnerships with Coventry Diocese and St Nicholas' Church enhance the school's Christian distinctiveness. Clergy support strengthens the Christian roots of the vision. As a result of diocesan training, governors proactively monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision. The outcomes contribute to future actions. Pupils, their families and staff express their views. This information, alongside the vision, underpins and drives decisions taken by leaders. This results in change that benefits the community. For example, implementing an outdoor learning and play strategy has transformed pupils' wellbeing and relationships at school and home. The vision is a lived reality throughout the school community, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Inspired by the vision, staff create meaningful learning experiences. They ensure that pupils have the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed. This means that the vision is a reality for pupils. This is seen in outdoor learning where the vision empowers individuals to be confident, persevere and take personal responsibility. In these sessions pupils' passion and enthusiasm for learning shines through. Tailored adult support enables pupils to persevere when learning gets hard. Considered adaptations, such as sourcing specialist equipment, ensure that pupils with SEND can access the curriculum. As a result, they participate in activities such as cycling training and school camp. This illustrates leaders' unwavering commitment to a supportive and inclusive learning experience. Driven by the vision, the comprehensive extracurricular offer provides opportunities to widen pupils' experiences and horizons. Targeted financial support promotes equity so that the vulnerable and disadvantaged are included. Pupils, staff and parents confidently talk about spirituality using the school's shared language. However, explicit opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum are in their early stages of development. Collectively, these vision-driven actions enable pupils to thrive.

Pupils and adults value daily collective worship. Whole school worship provides an opportunity to celebrate, reflect and pray. Creative lighting of the school's wooden cross projects the season's liturgical colour. This enables pupils to connect which season of the Church year they are in and when it is a special Christian festival. They confidently share this at the beginning of worship. Staff sensitively support pupils with a wide range of needs so that they can participate. Everyone is invited to join in with the prayer and singing. Pupils value the opportunity to pray both in worship and at other times in the school day. This leads them to use their classroom prayer spaces independently when they want to pray or reflect. Passionate singing enhances worship. The school's shared language of spirituality enriches worship. It is providing opportunities for pupils and adults to develop spiritually. Thoughtful comments in class worship reflection books illustrate the positive impact of worship. Strong partnerships with the diocese and St Nicholas church inspire worship. The impact of diocesan collective worship training is evident. Support from local clergy and the Open the Book team strengthens the school's worship provision. These varied experiences enable pupils and adults to flourish.

A warm welcome permeates this school and kindness pervades. Adults are inspired by the vision to show God's love in action. Individuals greet one another with a smile. Proactive restorative conversations happen promptly when things go wrong. The Christian vision creates a sense of unity and community. Consequently, pupils and



adults feel that they are treated well. The inclusive culture is the beating heart of St Nicholas. Skilled staff deliver specialist programmes. This ensures that wellbeing is promoted, especially for the vulnerable and disadvantaged. The school's compassionate approach is central to daily life. Positive relationships drive this. As a result, leaders empower pupils to select the person they feel will support them best in challenging moments. This leads to them taking responsibility for their actions. Pupils recognise and value individuality and difference. They understand why some individuals use different resources to help them to focus and learn. Strong relationships enable staff to offer one another support. Challenging situations are diffused when staff model dignity, respect and forgiveness. The trust's refreshed approach to staff development empowers staff to grow personally and to flourish. Governors' monitoring and evaluation demonstrates the positive impact that the vision is having on this aspect of school life.

Inspired by the biblical role model of Joseph, pupils confidently take personal responsibility. They relish the opportunity to be a leading light, wellbeing warrior or a school councillor. This instils in pupils a willingness to speak up on behalf of others. They take decisions for the benefit of the whole community. Pupils' sense of justice is inspired by a programme that enables them to travel virtually around the world. In these experiences they explore different cultures and meet a variety of people. This motivates pupils to make a positive impact. As a result, they have made a range of ethical choices which result in them being proactive agents of change. These manifest themselves in a range of pupil led activities such as creature committee and wildlife club. Pupils have led fundraising events for a range of charities including the homeless and dementia. Pupils' personal experiences, both within and beyond school, inspire their choice of charities. In partnership with the diocese, the trust's carbon neutral strategy is empowering staff and pupil champions to drive change. The champions challenge the school community to take responsibility for their actions. This project is beginning to impact positively and reciprocally across the schools in the trust.

Diocesan training for staff and governors has resulted in a refreshed, ambitious RE curriculum. It meets the requirements for the subject as a Church school. Leaders, the trust and governors ensure that RE is prioritised in all year groups. In partnership with the diocese the school draws on the local syllabus for RE. It provides opportunities to deepen pupils' knowledge of key Christian beliefs. They also access topics about major religions of the world and different worldviews. A Muslim visitor recently shared her faith experience with pupils. Such visits inspire pupils' understanding of what it means to have a faith. RE enables them to express their own point of view with confidence. Strong leadership of RE ensures that the subject is well resourced and that training for staff is effective.

Information

Address	St Faith's Road, Alcester, B49 6AG		
Date	08 May 2025	URN	139518
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	420
Diocese	Coventry		
MAT	Arden Forest Church of England Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Laura Newell		
Chair of Trust Board	Nick Moon		
Inspector	Helen Robertson		