

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Jude's Church of England Primary Academy

Vision

At St Jude's we offer a safe, secure and nurturing environment where everyone is welcome. Working in partnership, we respect everyone and celebrate our diverse community and individual differences. Our rich, inspiring curriculum offers the knowledge, skills and understanding to equip our children to be successful learners, preparing them for lifelong learning opportunities.

Strengths

- Leaders' actions, based on the vision, are having a transformational effect on pupils and adults. The Christian vision permeates everything that the school does. It is a lived reality which enables adults and pupils to grow and flourish.
- Partnerships and relationships within the community, trust, diocese and other agencies are strong. As a result the school is active throughout its community and leaders create an inclusive culture where people are treated well. This enriches the lives of pupils and adults.
- Collective worship is joyful, lively and engaging. A skilled team plan it expertly to ensure staff and pupils have the opportunity to develop spiritually through worship.
- There is an active culture of justice and responsibility at St Jude's. This enables pupils to think deeply about how they can make real and meaningful changes, now and in the future.
- Religious education (RE) has been developed and shaped to ensure it reflects the unique context and community of the school. The well-planned range of experiences enables pupils, including the most vulnerable, to flourish.

Development Points

- Further strengthen the school's approach to spirituality across the curriculum. This is so that pupils see links and build on their spiritual development from collective worship and can deepen their understanding.



Inspection Findings

St Jude's is a school where love and care surround pupils, staff and the community. The palpable feeling of community all around leads to positive change. The Christian vision at St Jude's is clearly understood by the community and is frequently the focus of discussion. It informs and inspires the actions and decisions of leaders. Firmly linked to the biblical account of Noah's Ark, it has underpinning Christian values. These are clearly expressed and lived throughout the school. As a result, pupils and adults use this language to discuss their experiences and to reflect deeply upon them. Leaders describe the school as the ark, offering a safe and secure space which is welcoming to everyone that enters. One young pupil compared the school to the ark- 'Noah looked after the animals, St Jude's looks after us'. The vision and values radiate into the wider community, their effect impacting beyond the school. A wide range of events are informed by the vision. This leads to pupils and families seeing the school as a true community that supports them in their journey and beyond. The trust vision resonates with the school vision and enhances its work. The trust supports clear systems and structures, such as a joint governing body with a partner school and wide collaboration. The vision inspires staff, and they are well supported to thrive.

The curriculum at St Jude's enables pupils to flourish in a number of ways. The vision is interwoven throughout. Its design is underpinned by the values of the school, enabling lifelong learning and allowing flexibility. Through this, teachers adapt opportunities to meet the needs of the pupils, particularly those who are deemed vulnerable. Trips and events are numerous including sleepovers at school, themed weeks and residential. These and other inspirational opportunities contribute to the community flourishing. Opportunities for music and dance at St Jude's are particularly strong and lead to deep reflection. Performing at local venues allows pupils to find their unique talents and gifts in a safe space. There are multiple opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually in the curriculum. However, pupils don't always see and grasp links explicitly. Consequently, this limits their spiritual development in the wider curriculum. Involvement in trust events and professional learning opportunities enhances the curriculum.

Collective worship is a joyful time of the day. Pupils and staff take part enthusiastically. This is due to the careful planning of worship. Members of the school community see it as a special part of each day. It is an opportunity to come together as one. Innovative ideas are used to express the values of the school and link the worship back to the vision. One example was encouraging pupils to think about those that may not have enough food whilst singing a harvest song. There is the freedom to participate in multiple ways and to different extents. The use of the phrase, 'Eyes closed, hands together and worship as you do.' is invitational and leads to pupils feeling included. Pupils say these times of contemplation influence their behaviour and actions at home and in school. The appointment of a chaplain across St Jude's and their partner school has led to the enrichment of worship. Acting, singing, dancing, reflection and prayer are important parts of daily worship. Class worship is an opportunity for pupils to develop spiritually in smaller groups. It also allows staff to focus on their own spiritual development. The trust and diocese provide training for pupils and staff as well as joint acts of worship. This further enhances spiritual development.

The vision at St Jude's inspires an environment and ethos in which pupils and staff are treated well. This creates positive relationships and living well together. The staff believe in pupils, and this helps to develop confidence and security. They report that 'grownups notice you.' The school community is passionate about creating a culture of respect and belonging. This supports pupils and families strongly and further builds constructive, trusting relationships. The pastoral team work relentlessly to ensure that inclusion is central to the school's approach. Interventions that focus on aspects such as belonging contribute to this culture. Pupils, including those who are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged, confidently articulate their emotions and this supports their mental health. This is enriched by interactive spaces for them to identify how they are feeling. This impacts



positively on pupils' wellbeing. Practices, such as the restorative justice approach, enable pupils to resolve conflicts respectfully. Difficult times for staff, pupils and families at St Jude's are met head on. The vision inspires the support that is offered to anyone who needs it. Through this, a wealth of compassionate measures from the school and the trust enable staff and pupils to feel safe and secure.

Pupils love and care for each other. They make positive choices based on the school's vision and associated values. Pupils speak about the injustice of war and how encouraging harmony can impact the actions of others. This leads to them seeing their place in the world as one where they are able to make a difference. This growing sense of responsibility is supported by the pastoral and spiritual guidance they receive. When supporting charities, pupils and staff consider carefully the types of events that will lead to increased awareness. Partnerships are well thought through and wide ranging. This means that the school is a caring hub in the local community. Sometimes this is challenging. However, the school considers how to keep their ties strong and engage other members of the partnerships. This ensures that partnerships continue to be meaningful.

The RE curriculum is well sequenced and ensures that pupils have opportunities to build knowledge and understanding of Christianity, worldviews and faiths. Planning includes the study of the diversity of practices within Christianity as a global faith. It has been developed in partnership with the diocese bringing balance and relevance for the school's unique community. It reflects the vision and meets the requirements for the subject as a Church school. Along with effective staff training, good resources and careful monitoring, leaders ensure that RE has a high profile. Staff are well supported by the school and trust. This enables them to plan RE accurately and share best practice more widely. Opportunities to explore and experience the subject through, for example art and drama, mean that the subject is engaging and relevant. Together, these elements mean that pupils, including the most vulnerable and/ or disadvantaged, flourish in RE.

Information

Address	Paget Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DT		
Date	17 October 2024	URN	140355
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	473
Diocese/District	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	St Chad's Academies Trust		
Head of School	James Williamson		
Executive Headteacher	Denise Dalton		
Chair of Governors	Harinder Jandhu		
Inspector	Catherine Atkinson		