

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St. John's Church of England Primary School

Vision

Pray, Play and Prosper with God at our side. 'Encourage one another and build each other up' 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Values: Generosity, Courage, Compassion, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect

St. John's CE 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 Christian vision and values are deeply embedded. They support decision making at every level. Actions driven by the vision impact positively on daily lives and experiences.
- Relationships are strong and central to the life of the school. Dedicated staff are unwavering in their nurture and support of pupils. As a result, pupils and adults flourish.
- Religious education (RE) is well structured, creative and engaging. Pupils enjoy RE. They demonstrate a strong understanding of its importance in helping them respect different beliefs.
- Collective worship is inclusive, engaging and uplifting. Rich opportunities exist to learn, celebrate and reflect.
- School governance is strong. Foundation governors know the school well, support leadership and challenge appropriately. Their presence is valued and their impact is positive.

Development Points

- Develop a shared language of spirituality across the school. This is to enable pupils to develop knowledge about how they can grow spiritually.
- Extend pupils understanding of justice and responsibility beyond their locality. This is to empower pupils to make a wider impact on the world around them.
- Deepen pupils' knowledge of world faiths and worldviews. This is to broaden their understanding and enhance their critical thinking.



Inspection Findings

St. John's CE Primary School provides rich opportunities for pupils and adults to flourish. The school's Christian vision is at the heart of its identity and purpose. This biblical foundation shapes a nurturing and inclusive community where pupils and adults are supported to grow academically, socially and spiritually. The commitment to encouragement and mutual respect is evident in the school's relationships, culture and leadership. This creates an environment which empowers pupils and adults to flourish and contribute positively to the lives of others. The school's Christian values are deeply embedded in daily life and clearly known and understood by pupils, staff and the wider community. These values are not only taught but actively lived out, shaping attitudes, behaviour and relationships across the school. Pupils speak confidently about what the values mean and can articulate how they guide their actions. They show kindness on the playground, stand up for others and resolve conflict with care and understanding. The governing body is highly effective in supporting and challenging the school to live out its Christian vision. Governors demonstrate a clear understanding of the school's distinctively Christian character and ensure that it remains central to strategic planning and decision-making. They are actively involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of the school's vision on pupils' wellbeing, learning and personal development. Through regular visits, robust questioning and strong partnerships with school leaders, governors provide informed oversight. They ensure that the school continues to flourish in line with its biblical foundation.

The school's Christian vision shapes a curriculum that seeks to nurture the whole child. It is rooted in the belief that every individual is uniquely valued and capable of growth. The curriculum is designed to encourage, challenge and support all learners to achieve their full potential. It promotes academic excellence alongside spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It ensures that pupils are equipped not only with knowledge but to serve others and make a positive difference in the world. Subjects are taught through a lens that reflects the school's Christian values, fostering a deep sense of purpose and interconnectedness across learning. The school is highly effective in supporting pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). It ensures that individual needs are met through tailored support, early intervention and strong collaboration with families and external agencies. As a result, pupils who have SEND make positive progress and are fully included in school life. The school offers a rich and diverse range of enrichment opportunities. It is committed to encouraging every pupil to flourish. Activities such as basketball, roller-skating and other creative opportunities provide pupils with exciting ways to develop their individual gifts beyond the classroom. These moments not only promote physical health and creativity but also build confidence, teamwork and resilience. Rooted in the school's Christian vision of encouraging and building one another up, pupils grow in self-belief and joy. However, pupils currently struggle to define spirituality and where spiritual moments occur in school.

Collective worship is a central and cherished part of the school day. It offers a daily opportunity for the whole community to come together in reflection, praise and prayer. Each act of worship begins with a meaningful call to worship, creating a sense of reverence and focus. Stories or scripture are thoughtfully chosen to reflect the school's Christian values, often linked to real-life themes that resonate with pupils. High-quality singing plays a key role, uplifting and uniting all present, while prayer provides a moment for stillness, gratitude and spiritual connection. Worship is conducted in an atmosphere of respect and inclusion, which fosters a deep sense of spirituality. Pupils and staff alike are encouraged to listen, reflect and grow in faith and understanding. Members of the pupil worship council are proud of their roles and confidently support worship each day. Pupils understand the purpose of prayer and speak about its role in helping them to feel supported, thankful and more aware of others' needs. Visits to St. John's Church are enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents. The 'Open the Book' team and 'Penn Puppets' further



enhance the Christian message during regular visits to the school. These valued opportunities enrich pupil's knowledge and spiritual development. Advice and training from the diocese supports leaders in ensuring collective worship is relevant for their community.

A strong culture of Christian love and care flows through the school, creating a supportive and nurturing community environment. Governors and senior leaders are committed to staff wellbeing, offering support that reflects the school's Christian vision and values. Staff mirror this compassion in relationships with pupils. Staff show genuine warmth towards pupils. They take time to understand individual needs. They offer support and encouragement. This ethos extends beyond school, with parents rightly praising the openness, warmth and support offered during joyful and difficult times. These respectful relationships embody the school's belief in building one another up.

The school takes its duty to others seriously, showing strong commitment to service, compassion and community outreach. As a Dementia Friendly Award recipient, the school fosters empathy and understanding of older community members among pupils. Regular visits to care homes and welcoming grandparents demonstrate the school's dedication to intergenerational connection and care. Pupils lead and join various charitable initiatives, choosing causes they care about and organising fundraising and awareness events. These actions support others and help pupils develop responsibility, humanity and a sense of justice. Through collective and individual efforts, the school lives out its vision to encourage and build others up, making a real difference. Pupils understanding of service to others beyond their locality is in its infancy.

The RE curriculum is well-balanced and progressive, reflecting the school's Christian vision and broadening understanding of world faiths. Pupils show real enthusiasm for RE, engaging thoughtfully and producing high-quality work across all key stages. In EYFS and Key Stage 1 floor books highlight rich learning and demonstrate creativity, reflection and understanding of key religious concepts. As pupils progress, they show clear development in knowledge, reasoning and making meaningful links between faith and life. Learning about Sikhism and Islam is especially impactful. It fosters empathy, respect and a broad inclusive worldview. The well-structured curriculum encourages exploration of big questions and appreciation of religious diversity. However, first-hand experiences of different faiths are currently lacking. Further, the curriculum currently lacks the opportunity for learning of non-religious worldviews, such as Humanism.

Information

Address	Wombourne Rd, Swindon, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 4NB		
Date	20 May 2025	URN	124278
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	85
Diocese	Lichfield		
Headteacher	Donna Calloway		
Chair of Governors	Gavin Bowen		
Inspector	Shaun Miles		