

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Whittington Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	School Walk, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2QZ
School vision	
Jesus said, 'I chose you and appointed you to bear much fruit, fruit that will last.' John 15:16 We are inspired by Jesus to learn with joy and flourish in love, faith and wisdom. Together, we live and grow well, valuing and respecting our differences and sharing our God given gifts. We aspire to be courageous and responsible, caring for our world and one another today for a better tomorrow.	
School strengths	
• The school's Christian vision is lived out through caring and compassionate relationships to create a warm and inclusive community. Pupils and adults in this community love, learn and flourish together in their personal growth. • Leaders know their school well. The Christian vision drives the school's actions. This leads to improvements that positively impact the pupils. • Inspirational and inclusive collective worship significantly impacts the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. It offers rich and meaningful opportunities for spiritual development. • The school vision shapes the highly inclusive curriculum and extra-curricular activities. As a result, vulnerable pupils and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) flourish. • The Christian vision inspires pupils to be agents of change. Pupils know they can make ethical choices. They take action to make a difference to the world in which they live.	
Areas for development	
• Enhance the religious education (RE) curriculum so that pupils have opportunity to learn about the broad range of experiences within Christianity. This will enable the pupils to understand that Christianity is a diverse faith. • Embed the monitoring and evaluation of the reflection areas. This is so that pupils can deepen their own spiritual development.	
Inspection findings	
The embedded Christian vision, created in collaboration with the local church and diocese is at the heart of Whittington Primary School. The carefully chosen language makes the vision accessible and understood by all. An atmosphere of love and kindness permeates throughout this inclusive school and extends out into the local community. Everyone lives well together because the relationships are built on mutual respect and trust. Pupils, staff and parents are valued and listened to and this leads to a strong sense of belonging. Parents greatly appreciate the enthusiastic staff going above and beyond to support their children. The wellbeing of staff and pupils is a high priority. Leaders have an open-door policy and this enables pupils and adults to be supported in difficult times. As a consequence, the school community grow and flourish together.	

Dedicated and knowledgeable governors enthusiastically support the school. Careful monitoring of the vision empowers leaders to make strategic decisions. Leaders passionately articulate how the vision drives their decisions to support and nurture vulnerable pupils and those who have SEND. This ensures that barriers to learning are removed. The vision informs staff recruitment and training, this enables the specific needs of pupils to be met. It is also used to develop policies within the school effectively. Recently the behaviour policy and classroom management systems were reviewed with a focus on the flourishing of pupils. The impact of this can be seen in the classrooms and on the playground where pupils behave well. Communication systems within the school have been strengthened, enabling everyone to feel valued and part of the team.

The school's vision is threaded through all aspects of the inclusive curriculum. Leaders ensure that the curriculum is accessible for all and this enables pupils to flourish irrespective of their starting points. Enthusiastic pupils learn with joy due to the enrichment activities offered through the curriculum. The art gallery where all pupils are encouraged to display their work is breathtaking. Leaders encourage pupils to be courageous and try new things. A wide variety of extra-curricular activities are planned to ensure that all pupils have a rich diet of experiences. The lunchtime clubs give support to pupils who find playtimes challenging. The personal and social development of pupils is a strength of the school. Pupils learn to respect differences and take responsibility for their own actions.

Creative opportunities for spiritual development are planned into the curriculum. Pupils are able to reflect and celebrate moments of awe and wonder. During an art lesson, the younger pupils were excited by the sound of the sea that could be heard in their shells and this prompted them to ask questions. There is a shared understanding of what spirituality means to those at Whittington Primary School. This supports staff and pupils in talking about spiritual moments and experiences. Each class has an attractive reflective space that gives pupils an opportunity to reflect. However, the use of reflective areas across the school is inconsistent.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. All members of the community value the time they come together. The Christian vision together with the Anglican foundation of the school shapes the provision for collective worship. It is seen as a special time to love, to learn and to flourish spiritually together. An inclusive approach to worship enables all pupils and adults to be present with integrity. The partnership between the school and local worshipping community enhances the provision for collective worship. Exciting joint activities give the pupils the opportunity to reflect and explore the seasons of the church year. Each class participates in an interactive workshop based on a Christian festival or Bible story. These enhance the spiritual development of pupils. Worship is carefully planned enabling pupils to reflect on the teachings of Jesus. Pupils are able to talk about how the Bible stories, together with the school values, help them to make good choices. There is a strong culture of prayer that enhances the spiritual development of pupils and adults. They both appreciate and cherish the time to be still, reflect and pray. Leaders, including pupil worship leaders, regularly monitor the impact of collective worship. This leads to informed decisions being made on how to develop collective worship in school.

A deep responsibility towards others is fostered as a result of the Christian vision. Pupils are encouraged to reach out beyond their own community. Mutually beneficial partnerships enable pupils to understand how they can positively impact people's lives. Pupils visit the local retirement home bringing great joy to the residents through their discussions and spontaneous singing. The curriculum and collective worship, shaped by the vision, inspire pupils to challenge injustice and make ethical choices. Pupils know that their voices can be heard. A group of pupils are currently working independently on a project to support the homeless in Worcester. Another group of pupils wrote to their Member of Parliament (MP) to lobby parliament. They want to increase the number of

cycle paths around Worcester to promote safety, health and wellbeing and reduce emissions. The pupils are developing leadership skills and confidence to shape the world around them.

RE is skilfully led. The provision for RE is high profile within the school and is regularly monitored by the RE subject lead. This has resulted in an engaging curriculum that is well-sequenced, well-balanced and provides challenge. Annual interfaith celebration weeks enrich the curriculum and deepen pupils' understanding of different religions and non-religious worldviews. However, pupils have less awareness of Christianity as a diverse faith. Leaders support staff to develop their knowledge and skills through high-quality training. This ensures that the curriculum taught is accurate and relevant. Visits to different places of worship enrich the curriculum.

Leaders at Whittington Primary School are inspired by the teachings of Jesus, to meet the needs of everyone. This has resulted in a highly inclusive community where adults and pupils are given the opportunity to flourish.

The inspection findings indicate that Whittington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	7 May 2024	URN	116856
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	211
Diocese	Worcester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Gary Richards		
Chair	Paul Newell		
Inspector	Judith Manns	No.	2240