

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Woodhouse Eaves	
Address	Meadow Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough, LE12 8SA
School vision	
<p>At St Paul's, we will nurture and inspire all children to enjoy a life-long journey of discovery and friendship. Through God's love and Jesus' teachings, our school community will support each child to flourish as curious, compassionate and resilient citizens with a love of learning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Paul's Christian vision is deeply rooted in theology and very well established. Living out a verse from the book of Proverbs, it is intrinsic in all aspects of school life. • The school values are inherent to the school community living out the vision and deeply impact the flourishing of both pupils and adults. • The school is greatly valued amongst the local community. Relationships and partnerships are highly effective in contributing to the school's ongoing development. • Collective worship is well planned and everyone expresses how these times of reflection are important to them. Exceptional links with local church congregations contribute to this rich worship provision. • Pupils enjoy religious education (RE) and show a depth of maturity in their responses. They are knowledgeable about Christianity and world faiths and readily articulate their learning and understanding. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure strategic practice within new MAT governance structures maintains prominence of the school's unique Christian vision, enabling continued flourishing. • To further develop and consolidate the understanding of spirituality across all curriculum areas. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Leaders at St Paul's have recently ensured that their Christian vision remains relevant to their school community. The re-established vision is firmly rooted in theology and frequent reference is also made of the story of St. Paul on the road to Damascus. The school's strapline of 'Starting children off through God's love and Jesus' teachings' is prominently displayed. It infuses strategic direction and all aspects of school life. Whilst exploring the future direction of the school, leaders have been resolute in ensuring that their unique vision will remain foremost. Consequently, their chosen partnership has a complementary Christian foundation. There continues to be an astute awareness of the vision during transition to joining the MAT. It remains paramount as new structures and systems are established. As a result, upholding and further embedding the school's vision is a key driver in development plans and business matters.</p>	



Leaders have a very strong knowledge of Church school education. They lead with transformational understanding giving clear direction to ensure all flourish and succeed. Demonstrating by example, many speak of their empathy and compassion. Being part of the St. Paul's family shapes lives and gives everyone a solid foundation on which to grow. There are a range of school, Christian and British values. Rather than confuse, these are well organised and positively complement the embedding of the school's vision. There is an abundance of biblical texts displayed around the building. All contribute to celebrating the school's Christian foundation and demonstrate a community surrounded by God's love.

Pupils at St. Paul's have high aspirations. They are empowered to be the best they can be through a clear focus on the values of curiosity, compassion and resilience. The school curriculum is ambitious and pupils regularly surpass expectations. Bespoke provision for those with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) ensures everyone has the targeted interventions necessary for their learning. Other vulnerable groups flourish as result of loving and empathetic support. Such wholehearted commitment is a deep expression of the Christian vision in action. Rich curriculum opportunities for spirituality are evident but these are more spontaneous in nature rather than intentionally planned. The school has an understanding of spiritual development but this sometimes lacks clarity. However, school evaluation has identified this as an area which is less strong. There is an extensive and varied provision of extra-curricular activities. Teams shine in local sporting events and the Jesus and Me (JAM) club is very popular. Pupils value building their lives on a wide range of skills which are undoubtedly preparing them for later life.

A time of quiet and meaningful spiritual reflection occurs as the school family wait to begin worship. The vision, values, current events and church calendar all contribute to a carefully planned timetable. Worship is a highlight of the day for many at St. Paul's. Notably, all staff attend daily, reflecting on its importance and impact in their own lives. Pupils become immersed in worship and eagerly make relevant contributions. There are many visual examples of pupils regularly writing prayers. Spontaneous prayer is encouraged using a very clear framework of thank you, help and sorry. This is enabling the community to develop spiritually and confidently craft their own prayers at unprompted times. Governor monitoring identified the need for strategies to make worship more invitational. A key strength is the contribution which local church congregations make to spiritual flourishing. The vicar leads regular worship and other denominations are actively involved. Parents describe services in church as very special. All contributing to opportunities of experiencing a living and meaningful faith in action.

Pupils entering the school, step into an atmosphere of calm where relationships are positive and supportive. As a result, they are empowered to flourish. Behaviour is exemplary. Instances of bullying are very rare as a result of early intervention because staff know individuals so well. Issues are addressed with a deep sense of understanding of circumstance and forgiveness. Pupils have confidence that matters raised have been dealt with. Each person is valued as unique and made in the image of God. Many attribute this inclusivity to the Christian vision and school values. Caring for mental health and emotional needs is intrinsic to the life of the school. The vicar also offers a regular, confidential 'prayer space' at lunchtimes attended by both pupils and adults. Staff articulate how the importance of their own wellbeing is recognised by leaders and they value practical and innovative ways to support this.

Pupils are offered rich opportunities to consider life beyond themselves and be agents of change. An ongoing partnership with a school in the nearby multi-cultural city of Leicester is of reciprocal benefit. Pupils are keen to financially support recent global emergencies but are also conscious of more local needs. A variety of leadership groups promote responsibility and encourage everyone to be agents for change. They recently challenged leaders about the use of plastic cutlery at lunchtimes and have since acquired a 'plastic free school' status. A rolling focus on values continually reminds pupils of their personal importance in society. One class built a brick wall with their names on to demonstrate how they are all stronger together. As a result, each value is relatable and impacts the actions of the school family.



RE is well led. Regular staff training has ensured that there are opportunities to continue to build on knowledge and promote spirituality in RE. A positive partnership with the diocese ensures training is relevant and pertinent to school needs. Pupils are proud of the work they do in RE and understand its importance in helping them to respect others. Church links and creative teaching enable captivating experiences to deepen knowledge and understanding of Christianity. Pupils are given opportunities to consider diversity, faith and culture across a range of religions. Visits to places of worship are currently being reinstated to deepen practical experiences.

Everyone in this school community is cherished and lives are transformed. They are immersed in a deep sense of God’s love as they grow and live out their deep rooted and relevant vision.

These inspection findings indicate that St, Paul's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	26 September 2023	URN	120173
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	193
Diocese	Leicester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Lisa Gilchrist		
Chair	Letitia Rocha		
Inspector	Joy Hardy	No.	944