

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church CofE VC Junior School, Tettenhall Wood	
Address	Woodcote Road, Tettenhall Wood, WV6 8LG
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>Proverbs 22:6 ' Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'</p> <p>Grow and Learn Together with God by Our Side.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school is a haven of Christian love extended to all and the school's vision is a life-changing reality. The school is constantly seeking creative ways to further explore the theological roots of the vision with its community. • Strong relationships between the school, church and local community are firmly rooted in Christian friendship. Faith and love abound in life-enhancing acts of kindness and service within the local community. • A carefully considered curriculum ensures that there is a rich culture of deep reflection. The school is constantly seeking new ways of nurturing pupils to grow spiritually. • Religious education (RE) of the highest quality equips pupils with an exceptional level of understanding about world faiths and beliefs. Pupils are well prepared for life in a diverse society. • Collective worship is led enthusiastically by adults and pupils. There is some variety in worship style but this is an area for development.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop creative ways of worshipping so that pupils can appreciate and enjoy an even wider breadth of Christian worship. • Provide even more inspirational opportunities for spontaneous reflection and prayer to further enhance pupils' spiritual development and wellbeing.

Inspection findings

This inspirational school prepares pupils with extraordinarily firm foundations as they set out on life's adventure. Every pupil is guided and immersed in ways of love, respect, kindness, honesty, friendship and perseverance. Such Christian values direct everyone to live and learn peacefully and effectively together. School leaders have a secure hope that this bedrock of good living and learning will sustain pupils throughout their lives. The school community recognises how pupils flourish because of the school's Christian vision. School leaders and staff welcome everyone whole-heartedly into this joyful and life-enhancing school community. Diversity is experienced and celebrated and pupils grow in wisdom and understanding as they live and learn together. A highly effective staff team works closely with the head of school. A great sense of trust and fulfilment motivates the staff to be the best that they can be for every child. It is especially apparent in relation to excellent outcomes for pupils with additional needs. An ensuing atmosphere of harmonious calm pervades along with unwearyingly passionate endeavour to be successful teachers and learners. Hence, everyone flourishes. The manner of care for each pupil illuminates a Christ-like way of life and service. In turn this is reflected in the considerate behaviour and attitudes of pupils. Pupils demonstrate that everyone has their own right to shine in their own special way by treating each other with respect and dignity. Pupils understand the spiritual depth of the core Christian values. They talk about the importance of friendship and how to make up well in times of disagreement. The practices of forgiveness and reconciliation are life-changing as they result in peace of mind.

The Junior School's federation with Christ Church Nursery and Infants Schools is a great strength. The Christian ethos is enhanced as firm foundations through faith and learning for pupils are established. The schools share discussion and practice around issues such as behaviour so that pupils can follow a continuous path. Pupils understand what it means to treat others as you would like to be treated as Jesus taught. Consequently, compassionate and generous ways of living are the natural way to behave. Deeply considered systems of leadership bring committed adults together to refine an ever-evolving and vibrant Christian education. The federation's governing board is a powerhouse of excellence. The school's deeply considered creative curriculum ensures that pupils are nurtured and enjoy growing socially, emotionally, spiritually and academically. It constantly drives the school forward as a distinctively Christian and wholly inclusive place of teaching and learning. It monitors and evaluates the school's theologically rooted Christian vision, and collective worship. Consequently, there is an increasingly deeper and wider impact on the spiritual life of the school family and community. Initiatives such as Creative Church brings pupils and church members together to enhance Sunday worship in the local parish church. The school is continually exploring its Christian vision so that everyone can understand even more fully about living God's way. The head of school and the executive headteacher (who was the previous headteacher) know and care for every pupil. They work tirelessly to ensure that every pupil experiences unconditional love, encouragement and praise. As a result, pupils become confident and curious learners who persevere to meet challenges and have high aspirations.

RE of exceptional quality is led and taught across the school by a highly-skilled subject leader. The school's governing board considered this arrangement carefully, driven by an understanding of the subject's importance. The teacher's enthusiasm for RE is contagious and grows through regular professional development. Her lessons are inspirational with pupils motivated and engaged in their learning. A culture of curiosity and questioning supports strong moral and spiritual development. Pupils of different faiths and beliefs are

confident to express their thoughts in an atmosphere of mature respect. Consequently, the pupils' ability to talk knowledgeably about faiths and worldviews is impressive.

Collective worship is a precious time which contributes richly to spiritual development. Pupils know a considerable number of Bible stories from daily acts of worship and many use these to inform the choices that they make. For example, they understand Christian beliefs about seeing everyone as a friend, as in the parable of 'The Good Samaritan'. Pupil groups from across the school plan and lead worship weekly in their own school and also in Christ Church Infants School. This is a wonderful and awe-inspiring experience for everyone. Pupils leading worship explain how exploring the theme of peace has changed their lives. Pupils are extremely familiar with worship within the Church of England. However, they do not fully benefit from the richness of worship as experienced by an even wider range of Christian traditions. Everyone is invited to share in spoken responses and known prayers such as the Lord's Prayer. Pupils are confident to write and share their own prayers. Some express how prayer is important to them outside of school especially when they face sad and disappointing times. They feel that they are not alone because God is with them. Some pupils express how God's nearness helps them not to fear and how they are guided to make decisions. Some pupils explain how reflection areas in the classrooms give them a space and place to express their feelings and pray. However, these areas are not developed creatively and regularly to attract pupil interaction and spiritual growth. Provision is made for pupils to pray within their own faith traditions which is deeply appreciated by them and their families. The chaplaincy group provides a deeply spiritual and emotional experience that contributes to the pupils' well-being. Families share in the school's love and joy when the whole school community worships together in church at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Collective worship was a powerful source of encouragement for many during the pandemic. The vicar, head of school and pupils recorded their own worship times which kept hope alive during a challenging time.

This school is hallmarked by love and pupils are eager to share that love in deeds of kindness. They wrote letters to encourage friends in a nearby Care Home during lockdown, establishing lasting friendships. Pupils are aware of the need in their city and respond with regular food donations to support the most vulnerable. This school is starting pupils off in the ways of faith, hope and love. They are growing and learning to be compassionate and confident global citizens.

Information			
School	Christ Church CofE VC Junior School, Tettenhall Wood	Inspection date	23 January 2023
URN	104366	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	240
Head of School	Jemma Nash		
Chair of Governors	Clive Vickers		
Inspector	Angela Daniel	No.	757