

# Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

## St Oswald's Church of England Primary School

### Vision

Looking at Jesus as our example, he demonstrates how to live out our Christian values; inspiring hope and ambition; embracing challenge and difference; succeeding by achieving excellence in one's self.

Inspire, Embrace, Succeed

'I have come that they may have life-and life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

### Strengths

- The Christian vision is central to the life of the school, driving decisions and actions taken by leaders. As a result, pupils and adults are enabled to live life in all its fullness.
- Worship is a special time for reflection and spiritual growth. Through exploring the vision, pupils develop self-awareness and apply their learning to positively impact on their relationships with others and God.
- Leaders prioritise inclusivity. Pupils and adults are valued and embraced for who they are and the individual gifts that they bring. This ensures that pupils who are considered vulnerable and/or disadvantaged are supported to succeed and flourish.
- Pupils are immersed in a curriculum that embraces diversity, justice and social responsibility. As a result, pupils are empowered to speak out and take action to help others.
- Pupils are highly motivated to learn in religious education (RE), which is effectively led. The curriculum is well sequenced, engaging and challenging. Pupils embrace learning about different religions and understand the relevance of this in a multi-cultural society.

### Development Points

- Provide opportunities that deepen pupils' understanding of religious diversity, global events and their relevance in everyday life. This is so that pupils are fully prepared for life in our multi-cultural world.
- Embed the assessment of pupils' learning in RE to further improve outcomes for pupils.



## Inspection Findings

St Oswald's Church School has a big heart that reaches into the community and beyond. Leaders understand the growing and changing needs of the community they serve and recognise the range of challenges that many families face. The deeply embedded Christian vision and carefully chosen values are highly effective in shaping the work of the school. By inspiring hope and ambition, and embracing challenge and difference, pupils and adults thrive. Leaders prioritise the wellbeing of pupils and adults so that each may flourish and grow spiritually, 'achieving excellence within one's self'. There is a deep commitment for all to live life to the full and use their gifts as God intended.

Inspired by the vision, the curriculum challenges and supports pupils to succeed. Leaders are diligent in monitoring and evaluating the learning and spiritual needs of pupils. Spiritual development is highly valued across the curriculum. Subject leaders consider opportunities for spiritual reflection and growth across their subjects. As a result of the shared understanding of spirituality, pupils and adults reflect, learn and grow from their experiences together. Pupils who have gaps in their learning or are considered vulnerable are quickly identified. Interventions are carefully planned to support academic progress and mental health and wellbeing. As a result, pupils are inspired to engage with their learning and embrace challenge when things become tricky. Relationships between pupils and adults are respectful and kind. This ensures pupils have the courage to ask for help when they need it. They embrace their value of perseverance as a key tool to being successful in their learning. The Afterschool clubs and trips offer additional activities to pupils as they progress through the school. This contributes to flourishing through widening pupils' experiences.

Worship is having a profound impact on shaping the lives of the pupils. Led by the vision, it is a special and peaceful time to grow spiritually. Through the teachings of Jesus, pupils and adults are offered exploration of the Christian faith. The carefully chosen values support the vision in becoming a living reality, inspiring an intentional culture of spiritual reflection. Language is inclusive and sensitive to those of different or no faith. This means that pupils and adults can be present with integrity. Worship is enhanced by the church. A local drama group bring stories from the Bible to life and the vicar regularly leads worship. Since the closing of the local church, this has been invaluable to deepening the knowledge of scripture. Pupils ask challenging questions showing their curiosity and personal journey of faith. Leaders know that worship is impactful as they regularly and meaningfully gather reflections from the pupils. The lived values are particularly evident in the respectful relationships between adults and pupils and the pupils themselves.

The embedded values of compassion, respect and justice create a culture of inclusivity where pupils and adults are treated well. Pupils feel safe and happy at school and know how to resolve problems peacefully. If they need help they know who to go to. Worries put in the worry box are always responded to. Reports of bullying are rare as pupils feel empowered to speak out against behaviour that does not align with the vision. Adults are supported well by leaders and each other. As a result, they feel a deep sense of belonging to the school and commitment to the pupils and families. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities have the help they need to flourish and shine. The school is holistic in its approach to education. As such, good mental health and wellbeing are at the core of provision. Pupils who need time to settle into the school day or regulate their feelings throughout the day are supported without judgement. The emotional needs of pupils are met with compassion and understanding. As a result, pupils are better able to access their learning. Over time they learn to self-regulate and cope more effectively with their emotions in tricky times.

Justice is a golden thread that runs from the vision throughout the school. Pupils are intentionally taught ways to think about and approach injustice. Opportunities for reflection and discussion are woven through the curriculum. Pupils are empowered to think of themselves as stewards of the earth and care deeply about the world as God created it. The younger pupils are confident to make ethical choices and speak out for others who do not have a voice. Inspired by the Christian values of compassion and justice, pupils follow the example of the Good Samaritan as told in the Bible. They understand the need to show courage to help those who need it. As pupils mature they have the opportunity to be immersed in a project of their



choosing. This gives them a deep understanding of the complexities of justice and how their choices can positively impact on others. They share their knowledge with the rest of the school to inspire others.

Strong leadership of RE ensures that it is a priority subject across the school. The curriculum is well sequenced, relevant and diverse. Pupils specific subject knowledge about a range of faiths is strengthening. As a result, pupils understand the relevance of religions within a multi-cultural society, but lack the depth of knowledge to fully appreciate this. Staff receive high quality training from the diocese and the Diocese of Worcester Multi-Academy Trust (DOWMAT). A new assessment system to monitor pupils' learning is in place but not yet embedded. As a result, learning gaps are not consistently addressed. Pupils enjoy learning about different religions. They are motivated to learn so that they know how to show respect for people's beliefs and celebrate together.

St Oswald's is well supported by the church, Diocese of Worcester and DOWMAT. Leaders are passionate in their mission to ensure that every child lives life to the full as God intended. As a result, the school community is flourishing. Its deeply rooted Christian vision is a living reality, creating a culture where all can succeed even under the most challenging of circumstances.

## Information

Address	Sion Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY10 2YL		
Date	14 October 2024	URN	144456
Type of school	Primary Academy	No. of pupils	152
Diocese/District	Worcester		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Worcester Multi-Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Carol Reece		
Chair of Governors	Gill Withers		
Inspector	Charlotte Taylor		