

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Pendeford St Paul's Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Emsworth Crescent, Pendeford, WV9 5NR
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Requires Improvement

School's vision
<p>'Building each other up – with God as our firm foundation'. 1 Thessalonians 5: 11</p> <p>'We are building the Kingdom of God as we radiate Christian Values of honesty, forgiveness, patience, humility, justice, thankfulness and harmony in our lives, our school and our community.'</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Paul's vision and values are securely rooted in the Bible. They infuse every aspect of the life and work of the school enabling pupils and adults to flourish. • Leaders are tireless in ensuring that the school is making rapid progress and improvements in realising the vision. The impact of this is especially seen in bold curriculum decisions to enable pupils to progress well and flourish. • Spirituality is the foundation on which the curriculum is built and evident in much of the school's work. However, pupils and staff do not have a clear vocabulary to articulate its meaning and impact. • Collective worship is a focal point for the whole school community. It strongly reflects the distinctive vision and values, providing rich opportunities for reflection and a deepening understanding of faith. • Religious education (RE) has a high status in the school and recent curriculum developments are being implemented. However, not all teachers have sufficient knowledge and skills to enable pupils to make sufficient progress in the subject.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the rapid progress in the school's outworking of the vision. This will ensure that all opportunities in school meet the learning and spiritual needs of all pupils. • Develop the RE curriculum and support teachers as they prepare their teaching of the subject. This will enrich pupils' studies and enable them to make further progress. • Cultivate a shared vocabulary for spirituality to enable everyone to articulate its meaning and impact on themselves and others.

Inspection findings

The deeply embedded Christian vision enriches every part of the life of St Paul's School. This creates a warm, inclusive environment in which each member of the community is valued and supported as an individual child of God. Pupils and adults live and work together harmoniously and flourish. The vision and values are referred to throughout daily life in the school. They are understood by everybody, enabling each person to make positive choices. Leaders and governors demonstrate how the vision is firmly rooted in the Bible and reflects the school's multi-ethnic context. Its effectiveness is monitored in every part of the school's work through a clear programme of evaluation. As a result, the vision shapes and informs all aspects of development, policies and actions.

Links with the diocese are well established and staff and governors benefit from training and updates. These help to improve practice and effectiveness, and underscore the school's Christian distinctiveness.

The school's senior leaders are deeply committed to the vision and ambitious for the school. Positive changes which are having significant impact. Recent curriculum revisions, to ensure that learning is exciting and relevant, are increasingly enabling pupils to flourish. Teaching programmes are grounded in the school's Christian vision and values with opportunities to explore spirituality woven throughout. This provides rich experiences which promote curiosity, listening, reflection and creativity across all subjects. As the inclusive curriculum is becoming embedded, pupils' success and flourishing are gaining pace. This includes pupils with special educational needs and disabilities as well as those who are vulnerable. A varied programme of extra-curricular opportunities enables pupils to explore and experience enriching activities.

The vision inspires pupils' development of character, resilience and ability to overcome barriers. This equips pupils to look beyond themselves, make positive choices and build perseverance. Highly visual displays enable those who are facing difficulty or anxieties, to explore their feelings, emotions and choices. This helps them to refocus, to analyse their experience and its causes, and to consider positive ways forward. Skilled pastoral staff support this process in addition to offering a range of interventions and guidance. A high priority and emphasis is given to the community's mental health and wellbeing. This ensures that no pupil or adult who is suffering or experiencing difficulty goes unnoticed or unsupported.

Underpinned by the vision, the community lives well together with positive supportive relationships being a strong hallmark. Pupils enjoy school, behave well and look out for one another. This promotes a calm, friendly feel to daily life, routines and work. On occasions when things do go wrong, forgiveness and reconciliation are sensitively managed, and relationships are effectively restored.

The school is a diverse community in which each person is embraced and celebrated for the unique contribution they bring. As a result, all feel valued, welcomed and loved as a child of God. The vision supports a culture that embraces difference and diversity. Dignity and respect for all is strongly promoted. This brings a sound sense of cohesion and sensitivity towards the feelings of others.

The school vision enables pupils to look beyond their own community. An example is through their learning about and support of several charities including Tap Twinning and Barnardo's. This instils an understanding of people and situations in the world where there is deprivation, inequality or crisis. It is developing pupils' understanding about social action, and the need to be agents of change to challenge injustice and deprivation. Because of their care and




concern for God's creation, many pupils actively challenge the exploitation of the natural world.

A highly valued focal point of every day at St Paul's is collective worship. This is the time when all are invited to explore and celebrate the school's Christian vision and its 'Rainbow Christian Values'. Worship is inclusive and carefully planned enabling pupils and adults to reflect upon, and if they wish to, connect with God. Well selected greetings invite engagement, whilst prayer, enthusiastic singing and Bible readings provide stimulus and challenge. This helps pupils to appreciate how worship can enrich lives and brings opportunities to explore the relevance of Christian teachings in today's world. Through daily worship, pupils understand the role that prayer can have in daily life. This results in a culture in which some pupils choose to pray and reflect independently and spontaneously. A variety of areas and resources around the school support this. Well-used reflection spaces in classes, and in the Barnabas and Rainbow Rooms, allow opportunities for pupils to think, contemplate and question. Pupils value these and highlight the significant impact that they have in their spiritual journey and understanding. The school's spiritual council, Lighthouse Keepers, provides the opportunity for pupils to take an active role in shaping worship. The local vicar regularly leads worship. This strengthens the links and partnership between the church and school. At key times in the church year, special services are held. This includes a termly Eucharist through which pupils' understanding of central traditions and teachings of the Church is enriched. At present, opportunities to gain experience of a breadth of worship styles is limited. This restricts pupils understanding about how Christians practice their faith in various denominations and cultures.

RE has a high status in the school and meets the requirements for Church schools. Curriculum plans are balanced across a range of faiths, and high-quality resources are in place. However, although staff understand and support the status of RE, some are not secure in their teaching of the subject. This is because they do not have sufficient understanding of theological and philosophical concepts to enable them to teach confidently. Thus, not all pupils are able to flourish in their RE studies. Their understanding of Christianity as a multicultural world faith is limited. A well-qualified leader of RE and senior staff have a clear understanding of why and how the subject needs to develop. As a result, all are committed to the well-established plan for staff training and rapid improvement which is underway. RE lessons do provide a safe place for pupils to explore and debate their own and others' ideas. This strengthens their understanding that people have different views and perspectives and that it is possible to disagree well. Pupils study a range of religions and world views. This gives them a respectful understanding of the different ways in which people practice their faith and beliefs.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Requires Improvement	
	<p>A recently revised, well-resourced curriculum plan for RE is in place. Monitoring shows that in many classes, teaching is insufficiently challenging and requires improvement. Although pupils respond well to RE lessons, their progress is not adequate, and they do not always flourish in their learning. Staff training to address this, with support from the diocese, is underway.</p>			
Information				
School	Pendeford St Paul's Church of England VA Primary School	Inspection date	13 March 2023	
URN	104382	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	215	
Headteacher	Jennifer Ferretti			
Chair of Governors	John Gill			
Inspector	Peter Coates	No.	937	