



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Colwich Church of England Primary School	
Address	Main Road, Colwich, Stafford, ST17 0XD
School vision	
<p>God is love, so we: Learn to Love; Love to Learn; Learn for Life. ‘God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and he will stay one with us’. 1 John 4:16</p> <p>Our vision is that every child is fully welcomed into our supportive community and discovers their value as a unique child of God. Through the highest quality of teaching and learning, we endeavour to nurture them so that they leave us as confident, curious and resilient life-long learners ready to fulfil their God given potential. We are guided by our Christian values to inspire one another to flourish through life’s journey.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is known and lived out at all levels within this loving community. The Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust and Local Academy Committee champion and challenge the leaders in all situations. Everyone benefits from the strong and effective church and school relationships. • The curriculum is the outworking of the Christian vision especially through the wider opportunities offered for the pupils. • Pupils and their parents express how they are all treated well and staff are very approachable. Through roles such as lunchtime helper and reading buddies pupils are actively supporting each other. • The religious education (RE) curriculum is well planned and resourced. Pupils understand the importance of the subject and readily engage with it. • The church enhances the collective worship through weekly sharing Bible stories and prayer opportunities. School and church together are central to this community, each sharing love with all. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a shared understanding of what spirituality means both in collective worship and all aspects of school life. This is to deepen experiences and to support spiritual development. • Embed courageous advocacy, in line with the vision, to enable pupils to take more ownership and be agents of change. • Within the RE curriculum create opportunities for first hand experiences of worldviews and faiths. This is to enhance pupils' understanding of the diverse world in which they live. 	
Inspection findings	
Colwich Church of England Primary is a school which welcomes all. Leaders and governors have	

revised and enhanced the school's vision. 'God is love, so we: Learn to Love; Love to Learn; Learn for Life' which is shared by all. Meeting the needs of the community is the focus for the school. The vision is embedded into all aspects of school life. It is lived out daily through the values of endurance, compassion, friendship, trust and koinonia. The vision has established a strong and supportive culture where pupils and adults succeed and flourish. Very well-connected partnerships are in place with the trust, diocese and parish church. As a result of this, newly appointed staff have received relevant support to continue to live out the Christian vision. Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust (MAT) members, who are extremely committed, evaluate the impact of the vision. As a result they know the next steps on this school's journey as part of the community of schools.

The Christian vision has inspired the organisation and design of the curriculum which meets the needs of pupils. They are inspired to make good choices as they recognise the values being lived out by all around them. This results in a relevant and aspiring curriculum, which enables pupils to develop loving and supportive relationships with each other. The vision drives staff to encourage all to reach their potential. The staff value being part of the MAT where expertise is shared across the three schools for the benefit of all. There are planned opportunities for spiritual reflection as part of the curriculum. Despite this, leaders recognise that there is a lack of shared understanding of spirituality. This limits the opportunities for development across the wider curriculum that are offered for all to flourish.

Collective worship is central to the life of Colwich Church of England Primary School. It is centred around love and what it means to be part of this loving community. The Christian values underpin the carefully crafted worship programme which develops pupils understanding of biblical texts. They use the stories to help them to make choices in their life. The very strong and effective partnerships with the church lead to good knowledge and opportunities for further engagement. Pupils speak very highly of the visits they regularly make to church, including writing prayers for the prayer tree that are shared with their church family. The engaging and welcoming church team enrich visits with their creative ways of appealing to the pupils. Regular worship, led by the vicar and the church team, supports spiritual growth and enrichment. Worship is guiding the actions of pupils as they make choices based on the values and themes discussed, enabling flourishing. However, leaders have rightly identified the need to increase pupil participation to further ensure spiritual growth.

Leaders have developed a loving school culture for pupils, adults and the wider community. The values are lived out daily with the priority given to everyone's wellbeing. Activities based around the nurture room support all members of this community. The Hope Project is very effective in supporting some of the most vulnerable. Pupils are helped by having the time and space to discuss matters that are impacting on them and their wellbeing. This results in pupils and adults being confident and able to contribute well to their own development. Pupils joining the school can quickly settle. They feel valued and a part of this community due to the warm and welcoming relationships displayed.

Pupils behave extremely well and talk about how making the wrong choices can be resolved, showing their understanding of the vision. They rightly say that there is always a teacher that will help. Parents speak very highly of the staff and say that their pupils are known as individuals, which they greatly appreciate. They enthusiastically share that the school vision and associated values have influenced their child. Parents say that they are kind and caring individuals, including those that have moved onto the next phase of education. The behaviour and support for each individual shows this community living well together daily. Examples are shared of how leaders and the vicar have professionally and pastorally supported each other through some very challenging times recently. Both pupils and adults feel loved, valued and treated well at Colwich school. Wellbeing and mental health are a high priority to support all to flourish.

The value of koinonia, a Christian loving community, encourages pupils to look beyond their own needs. Within school there are various roles and opportunities for helping others. An example is lunchtime helper where pupils talked about helping their younger peers to cut up their lunch. The school council have led various fund-raising opportunities that they are proud of. Most recently the Shoebox Appeal, the Royal British Legion and regular cakes sales for various charities. They are particularly proud of the reverse advent calendar. Organised by the youngest pupils, with the help of the school council, they raise resources for the House of Bread. This all provides character development, training in leadership and opportunities for seeing the real difference that they are making. Some pupils act individually to support various charities. The ones that they have a personal link to results in pupils acting on their own initiative to raise funds. Pupils also galvanise the support of the whole school community to achieve impressive fundraising targets. They are learning how to make ethical choices and improve their community. However, the scale and scope of this does not fully include national and global priorities.

The RE curriculum has been adapted to meet the needs of the school and meets church and statutory requirements. It is well planned, sequenced and enthusiastically led by the RE lead, reflecting the school's vision. It is matched to pupil needs on a two-year cycle to support the effective coverage with mixed age classes. Pupils speak enthusiastically about RE, how it helps you to know and understand different views. They are confident to share their individual views within a safe and supportive learning environment. Pupils understand that Christianity is a global world faith and the importance of learning about worldviews. Leaders identify opportunities for pupils to have more first-hand experiences of world faiths to deepen their understanding of diversity. Strong links with the MAT and diocese ensure the RE lead accesses current and relevant training, which is cascaded to all staff.

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

Information			
Inspection date	18 January 2024	URN	142422
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	110
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Alison De Ste Croix		
Chair	Clive O'Donnell		
Inspector	Sara Goddard	No.	976