

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Wolverhampton The King's CE(A) School

Address Regis Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom, WV6 8XG

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

Excellent

The effectiveness of religious education (RE)

Excellent

School's vision

'Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.' 2 Cor 13 :11 At The King's School we believe that everyone is unique and created in God's image. We enable all to achieve their God-given potential; to grow, learn and aspire; to transform their lives and the lives of others and to journey in faith without limits within a unified, respectful and harmonious community.

Key findings

- Leaders have infused the school with a deeply Christian vision that is unforced, ever present, spontaneous yet intentional. Their courageous decisions enable all adults and pupils to flourish spiritually and academically. Sustainable leadership succession embedding the vision further could be more abounding.
- Staff including governors create excellent partnerships that transform lives. This enables all pupils to be agents of change and show compassion for God's world.
- Leaders execute bold ethical arguments for the inclusion of vulnerable pupils including those with English as an Additional Language (EAL). Everyone in this harmonious community knows they are created in God's image
- Collective worship is inspirational in its content and delivery. Pupils speak of a rich culture of deep reflection and all-encompassing acceptance of others that provides the fullness of life that God intends.
- Religious education (RE) planning and organisation is excellent which provides superb pupil progress. Sharing of this curriculum expertise could be developed further with other church schools .

Areas for development

- Provide continuity though the growth and retention of effective Church school leaders.

- Share the excellent practice demonstrated in RE through professional dialogue at a regional and national scale to further enhance pupil progress.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

The King's Church of England School is a community where lives are transformed because of the school's deeply Christian vision. Every member of this excellent school knows that they are celebrated as unique and created in God image. Pupils state that as a community they look beyond the obstacles that may hold them back as they aspire and grow together. Leaders have taken every opportunity to weave the vision based on 2 Corinthians 13 :11 into every aspect of school life. Pupils and adults alike fearlessly promote the school's Christian character speaking with integrity about the inclusive nature and care they feel. This has created an environment which is calm and reflective where all are welcome. The recent 'Diversity Day' highlighted the rich culture which is readily expressed and appreciated by all. Pupils and staff shared in their cultural dress, foods and faith backgrounds; celebrating difference not only socially but spiritually. A parent comment states that: 'Pupils at this school know they are safe and are celebrated as individuals with their own story.'

The school chaplain and ethos co-ordinator are central to the exceptional and consistent practice that is seen across the school. Via the 'Faith Space' they offer an approach which welcomes all faiths or none to worship. The wider pastoral team apply policies built on the school vision, to ensure forgiveness and reconciliation are the currency of all conversations. This gives pupils a voice when they feel vulnerable and nourishes them as beings created in God's image.

Prayer is an ever-present element of school life from senior team meetings and staff briefings to daily worship. Prayer is highly valued and pupils state that they know they can stop and pray alone or with someone showing a deep spiritual maturity. Pupils stated that prayer had supported them during challenging times expressing their grief for a classmate and teacher who had passed. The 'Faith Space' provides a wonderful space for such reflection. Its stained-glass panels recognizing of the symbols of all world faiths within a distinctly Christian tradition.

Pupils' leadership has an impact in school and its wider community and embraces the Christian concern of justice for all. They are eager to make a difference to the world in Christ's name. This is demonstrated through the work of the 'Charity Society'. They ensure awareness of current needs and journey in faith to support others, for example the local food banks. Membership of the School Council comprises elected members of the Wolverhampton Youth Council. They speak as courageous advocates for change on matters at local and national levels. They use the parable of the Good Samaritan to illuminate their approach to bring change for the better. The vast array of clubs and societies for example the drama and gardening club create a sense of joy, and acceptance. These social and cultural opportunities are appreciated, evidenced by the variety of badges proudly worn on pupil's lapels.

Staff and pupils speak of the excellent support they have received for their well-being especially during the COVID period. They were provided with the resources and reflections to ensure that they flourished academically, pastorally and spiritually. Leaders are engaged with training opportunities locally and nationally working with other church schools and the Foundation for Educational Leadership. The 'Well-Being Wednesday' group and family ethos creates an atmosphere where all understand hope and what it is to live well together. Staff comment on the culture of dignity and respect and this is down to the vision driven leadership of the headteacher. Induction processes are clear and all staff have a clear knowledge that this is a Church of England school. Governors passionately champion school development assessing via accurate and rigorous monitoring and concise reporting systems. The vision and motto of 'Aspire, Believe and Achieve together' are used as the guiding principle during all decision-making processes.

RE is highly regarded and is seen as a separate core subject. The school ensures that it meets all statutory obligations within the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. It is taught by well-trained specialists who use their expertise to create a curriculum with excellent balance between religious and other views. This is challenging and provides the opportunity for accelerated progress demonstrated in superb oral and written responses. Pupils of different faiths and backgrounds can readily express the vision in the light of their own beliefs. They express and examine their own convictions and at a deep personal level and understand ethical issues locally, nationally and globally.

The superb support provided by the well-coordinated school SEND Team transforms pupils learning. The incredible work of the EAL team provides pupils with access not only to the curriculum but life in all its fullness. By treating individuals with respect and support in a school where multiple spoken languages are celebrated. Pupils are focused and attentive in class and take pride in their work. When questioned they can clearly express their learning. A Year 7 pupil explained with passion, the Easter story and its relationship to the Eucharist and the centrality to the Christian faith. The well sequenced and ambitious curriculum plans alongside excellent practice create a safe space for theological thinking.

The remarkable work of the whole staff to create a 'School of Sanctuary' raises awareness of the issues facing people seeking asylum. This is a living embodiment of the school's vision. The life changing and affirming support for refugee pupils and their families when they need it the most is incredible. This not only enables all to flourish but to be transformed. This is evident in life successes with pupils accessing their desired future education, employment and training opportunities.

Collective worship is the jewel in the crown of The King's. It illuminates the school vision, is inclusive and expertly structured, resourced and delivered. Pupils confidently plan and lead acts of worship and share their own expressions of faith alongside distinctly Christian traditions. They explain their theological knowledge using various illustrations. Bible passages alongside challenging reflections are skillfully presented by the Chaplain providing deeply appreciated moments of stillness, celebration and reflection. Throughout the pandemic strong links with local churches were maintained displaying sacramental Christian traditions. Opportunities to share in the Eucharist have been limited but are now reoccurring through excellent support from the local Vicar.

The vision of this truly Christian yet very diverse community is experienced in all aspects of school life. This enables all to not only flourish but to be transformed. The school is well placed to continue to allow pupils and adults to aspire, believe and achieve together with God's love as a solid foundation.

	The effectiveness of RE is	Excellent
	<p>Pupil progress in RE is consistently good and much is excellent. Leaders provide a safe space for pupils to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical convictions. Pupils have significant opportunities to engage in dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews. The curriculum is skilfully sequenced and scaffolded to celebrate the diverse nature of this community.</p> <p>A culture of learning and development that looks beyond obstacles pupils may face is present in all learning episodes.</p>	

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	24 May 2022	URN	131547
Date of previous inspection	12 March 2015		
School status	VA	NOR	656
Name of Multi Academy Trust or Federation			
Diocese or Methodist Circuit	Lichfield		
Headteacher	Joy Langley		
	Above National Average		

Proportion of pupils deemed to be disadvantaged			
Proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	Above National Average		
Additional significant information (if needed)	The school is undergoing academisation. Interim Leadership arrangements are in place since the previous Principal left in April 2021.		
Inspector's name	Thomas Hutchinson	No.	0978