

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St. George's Church of England First School

Vision

Wonderfully made, inspired to shape the world.

Our vision is deeply rooted in Psalm 139:14: "I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This verse underpins our belief that every individual is unique; fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image, possessing talents and aspirations that we will nurture at St. George's.

We aspire for our children to leave school with a strong sense of self-belief, identity and community that extends beyond our gates. We believe in empowering them to make positive contributions to their communities and the wider world.

St. George's Church of England First School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- An aspirational Christian vision informs the strategic direction of the school. It is effective in meeting the needs of the community, including those who are vulnerable or have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Leaders prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of the school community. Pupils and adults flourish in their personal growth as a result of the care and nurture they receive.
- The inclusive collective worship is a clear expression of the Christian vision. Moments of stillness and prayer enrich the spiritual development of pupils and adults.
- Rich experiences enable pupils to learn about the diversity within their community. As a result, pupils value each other and live well together.
- Religious education (RE) is well-led and has a high profile within the school. Leaders provide staff with high-quality training to develop their knowledge and skills. Consequently, pupils benefit from a well-sequenced, relevant, accurate and diverse RE curriculum.

Development Points

- Continue to embed the shared language of spirituality across the school. This is to enable pupils to confidently articulate their understanding of spirituality.
- Strengthen the RE curriculum by developing further opportunities for pupils to learn about non-religious worldviews. This is to deepen pupils' understanding of diversity in the world around them.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision at St George's effectively drives the strategic direction of the school. Recent adjustments have become fully embedded. As a result, staff and pupils understand and articulate the vision with confidence. Leaders monitor and evaluate its effectiveness, informing the school development plan. The impact of the vision on the flourishing of pupils and adults is visible in both their personal and academic growth. It has a significant impact in shaping the positive contributions of the school to the community it serves. The inclusive vision of the Endeavour Schools Trust complements the Christian vision of St. George's. Both are successfully aspirational in the personal and academic development of pupils and adults.

The curriculum and extra-curricular activities are shaped by the vision. Leaders' meticulous monitoring and evaluation enables opportunities for pupils to flourish. This includes pupils with SEND and those who are vulnerable. Individuals are valued and nurtured as they move from the nursery through the school. The Endeavour Schools Trust has been instrumental in contributing to the inclusion of pupils with SEND, for example by financing a sensory room. The wealth of extra-curricular activities, visits and visitors enrich the curriculum and support the aspirations of pupils. Leaders recognise the importance of developing the spirituality of pupils through the curriculum. Pupils cherish the time they spend in the dedicated reflective area. It enables them to engage with prayer and reflection and contributes to their personal spiritual development. However, a shared language and understanding of spirituality are underdeveloped.

The inclusive collective worship, reflecting Anglican traditions, welcomes pupils with a wide range of faiths or none. Pupils and adults cherish the time they come together as a school. The Diocese of Worcester supports the school in developing effective worship through training. There is a clear structure to each act of worship that allows for pupils and adults to be actively engaged. They understand that the prayers are invitational, which allows them to be present and to engage with integrity. Leaders value pupil opinions about worship and involve them in their decision making. Pupils appreciate the sense of belonging that whole school worship gives them. Time for spiritual reflection through moments of stillness and prayer is woven into each worship. These support the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. Pupils use the teachings of Jesus and the Bible to reflect on their own behaviour. This helps them understand that they have a responsibility to care for each other and those in the wider community. Leaders have a strong relationship with the local church. Members of the Open the Book team enact Bible stories with pupils, supporting biblical understanding. Pupils and their families worship together in church and celebrate Christian festivals during the year. This effectively supports the spiritual development of pupils.

The Christian vision supports the flourishing of pupils and adults at this inclusive school. The talents and aspirations of each unique individual are carefully nurtured. Relationships are exemplary. Leaders act as role models, valuing and caring for pupils and adults. Consequently, an atmosphere of warmth and joy permeates the school. Leaders take time to listen to concerns, prioritising the mental health and well-being of adults and pupils in their school community. Families who find themselves in challenging circumstances are well supported and this work is transforming the lives of pupils. The Christian vision informs policies within the school, successfully reinforcing positive relationships and behaviour. Consequently, pupils are celebrated for their uniqueness and for being wonderfully made in God's image. As a result, pupils behave well and demonstrate respect to each other and the adults in school. This is evident in the joyful interactions in the playground. Pupils talk to staff if they have a problem and know that they will be listened to. This enables them to feel safe and happy in school.



Empowering pupils and adults to make positive contributions to the community and the wider world is at the heart of the vision. Partnerships are shaped by the belief that everyone can make a difference to the world in which they live. The school has strong links with a local care home, which are mutually beneficial. Pupils and residents enjoy spending time together. It enables pupils to experience the rewards of helping others. Enrichment opportunities enable pupils to learn about injustice and equality. After learning about the food bank, pupils reflected on how the act of giving can change people's lives. It inspired pupils to donate to the homeless. Through exploring the meaning of the vision, pupils think about how they can take action to look after the world. This has inspired pupils to pick up litter in the playground, ensuring it remains a safe space for visiting wildlife.

Enthusiastic leaders prioritise RE as a core subject, ensuring staff have the knowledge and skills to deliver the curriculum. Monitoring and evaluation by leaders have led to significant improvements in the subject. For example, the development of effective questioning provides a challenge to pupils' thinking. Careful planning ensures that pupils learn from a well-sequenced RE curriculum that builds on prior learning. However, the curriculum does not support pupils in gaining a deep understanding of non-religious worldviews. Pupils learn about a range of religions including Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. They learn about the diversity within religions including how Christianity is a living global faith. Pupils enjoy experiences enriched through role play, art and visits to places of worship. These activities raise the profile of RE within the school and enable pupils to learn through a multi-sensory approach. Pupils are happy to discuss their own beliefs in RE because they know that they will be treated with dignity and respect.

Information

Address	Stevenson Avenue, St. George's, Redditch. B98 8LU		
Date	13 March 2025	URN	146754
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	173
Diocese/District	Worcester		
MAT/Federation	Endeavour Schools Trust		
Headteacher	Claire Martin		
Chair of Governors	David Snell		
Inspector	Judith Manns		