

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary & St Margaret's Church of England VA Primary School, Castle Bromwich	
Address	Southfield Avenue, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, B36 9AX
School vision	
<p>Helping each of us to be the best we can be by living 'life in all its fullness'. (John 10: 10). Our vision is for all members of our school family to continually develop spiritually, morally, academically, emotionally and culturally so that they can be the best version of themselves possible: we want each child and adult to experience the 'life in all its fullness' that Jesus talks about in the book of John.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the school's deeply embedded Christian vision, leaders have created a culture of respect and belonging. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are provided with the support and love they need to thrive. As a result, wellbeing is enhanced, enabling all to live life in all its fullness. • The rich and broad curriculum meets the needs of learners, enabling pupils to let their light shine in their own unique way. Opportunities for spiritual development are abundant throughout the curriculum. • Worship is a treasured time for pupils and adults to share spiritual uplift, prayer and joy. Pupils and adults of all faiths and none are present with integrity and reflect in their own way on teachings from the Bible. • Pupils respond to ethical issues with a sense of responsibility. They act on issues of injustice with compassion and concern, believing in themselves to make a difference in their local community and beyond. • The well structured religious education (RE) curriculum is led with passion and creativity. As a result, pupils experience relevant and exciting lessons that build on conceptual knowledge over time. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a shared understanding of spirituality so that pupils have a common language to recognise and reflect on their spiritual growth. • To use the well designed assessment system in RE to contribute more effectively to pupil progress. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>St Mary and St Margaret's deeply embedded Christian vision of living 'life in all its fullness', (John 10: 10) reflects the warm heart of this caring school. Thoughtfully chosen values bring the vision to life. As a result, passionate leaders have created a culture of nurture and belonging where all are</p>	

welcome and supported to thrive.

Driven by the vision and underpinned by the values, the carefully created curriculum is broad and rich in experiences. Opportunities to learn beyond the national curriculum complement pupils academic learning, enabling pupils to shine in their own unique way. Moral, social, emotional and cultural experiences enrich spiritual growth and compassion for others. Pupils are given time to reflect on complex issues, such as modern-day refugees. They ask sensitive and difficult questions related to homelessness, and deepen their understanding of racism through the eyes of Martin Luther King. To prepare for visiting their local residential home for the elderly, the school invited pupils to attend a workshop on Alzheimer's. Deepened understanding of the disease enables relationships with the residents to flourish. All pupils have a voice and are encouraged to form their own thoughts and to respect the opinions of others. Their guiding light is the teachings of Jesus and how he related to others with unconditional love. Pupils with SEND are given the support they need to enable them to succeed. Leaders prioritise inclusion by ensuring appropriate and timely resources are put in place. Children and family workers, provided by the school, work alongside school staff and families to remove barriers to learning and support wellbeing. Additional staff are provided where needed in the classroom to support individual learning needs. As a result, all pupils are able to focus on their learning.

Collective worship is a special time where pupils and adults are nourished through God's love for all. A feeling of spiritual peace resonates throughout worship as time is given to reflect on teachings from the Bible. Pupils are inspired to be the best person they can be and shine their light into the world. As they begin their learning day, collective calm permeates throughout the school. Because worship is inclusive, particularly with language, pupils and staff are able to be present with integrity. Engagement is invitational and messages universal so learning is accessible to all. Worship leaders are held in high esteem across the school. They contribute to the spiritual experience of worship by fulfilling their role with total commitment and reverence. They support, plan and lead parts of worship, modelling inclusive and meaningful involvement. The school song is deeply moving with the words creatively celebrating the school's Christian vision. Pupils sing with joy and pride, creating a spiritual connectedness with one another and a presence beyond. Whilst spiritual development is evident, opportunities are lost to enrich spiritual growth through a shared understanding and common language. Strong partnership with the local church enhances worship experiences for the school and church congregation. Worship regularly takes place in church and is considered a spiritual time. Celebrations of Easter, Christingle and Harvest are considered particularly special. The local vicar and church team regularly visit school, leading worship and contributing to the life of the school.

Respect and love permeate relationships at St Mary and St Margaret's. The school environment is calm and purposeful, enabling all to enjoy their learning. Pupils are well supported when they find learning tricky and know that resilience and perseverance are key to overcoming challenges. They feel safe at school and know that adults care for them should they need help. Good manners and kindness to others shines through all ages and stages of pupils. Difference and diversity are seen as everyone being unique and loved by God. Pupils with SEND are given the emotional, learning or spiritual support they need to flourish in school. In line with the vision, adults go above and beyond to ensure pupils are happy and able to be their best self. Dedicated staff are supported by leaders and each other to grow and shine. As a result, their mental health and wellbeing is nurtured and they give above and beyond what might be expected.

Living' life in all its fullness' is seen as an aspiration beyond the school. Working in partnership with a select group of local schools enhances the knowledge and confidence of middle leaders. Support from the diocese contributes to spiritual nourishment of leaders in addition to enhancing the development of RE. Because of the carefully constructed curriculum, pupils have a wide variety of

opportunities to respond to issues of social injustice. Working through their vision and values, pupils take action to address their concerns for God's beautiful world. As a result, adults are required to respond. The headteacher was inundated with letters of persuasion from pupils after they learnt about recycling. As a result, recycling bins were introduced and eco-warriors are responsible for maintaining their success. Campaigning to lower the exhaust emissions outside of school by compelling parents to switch off engines when waiting has been successful. Year 3 are campaigning to reduce the amount of paper used in school in a bid to reduce deforestation. Pupils believe they can make a difference in the world and are not afraid to take constructive action.

Committed and creative leadership of RE has resulted in an effective and relevant curriculum in accordance with the trust deed. As a result, pupils are well prepared for responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain. Pupils understand that Christianity is a diverse world faith and are able to identify theological similarities with other faiths. They have a deep understanding of the teachings of Jesus and make clear connections with their school vision and values. RE is prioritised within the timetable and is taught by skilled and knowledgeable teachers. Lessons provide a wealth of opportunities for pupils to reflect on their own ideas about meaning, purpose and belief. Through the sequential and balanced RE curriculum, pupils' knowledge builds over time. Leaders track the attainment of pupils although assessment data is not fully evaluated in order to maximise the ongoing progress of pupils. As an inclusive school, world religions and worldviews studied are thoughtfully selected. Pupils are deeply challenged through 'big questions' to consider what it is like for people of faith. This means pupils develop respect for differing beliefs both within and beyond their local community.

St Mary and St Margaret's is a beacon of light in their community. It is a haven of kindness striving to serve through God's love, so that all can be the best that they can be.

The inspection findings indicate that St Mary and St Margaret's Church of England VA Primary School, Castle Bromwich is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	18 June 2024	URN	104097
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	245
Diocese	Birmingham		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Mark Street		
Chair	Deborah Ward		
Inspector	Charlotte Taylor	No.	2117