

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Weston-on-Trent Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Forrester Avenue, Weston on Trent, DE72 2HX
School vision	
<p>Let Your Light Shine Matthew 5:16</p> <p>We want our children to understand why they are in school and to be active, engaged learners who work hard to shine their own individual light. We also want to imbue our pupils with Christian values. You do not need to be a practicing Christian in order to live by the values and we believe that children of all faiths and none would benefit from an education with the following foci:</p> <p>Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy Community and Living Well Together Dignity and Respect</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong and decisive leadership at Weston-on-Trent school ensures the vision of 'Let your light shine' transforms lives. • The nurturing and supportive ethos means adults, pupils and their families find a deep sense of belonging. • Bespoke and varied learning opportunities enrich the lives of pupils, including those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable. • The well-being of pupils and adults is a high priority. This ensures a community where all are included and supported to live well together. • Religious education (RE) is a strength of the school. Pupils are knowledgeable and passionate about a range of religions and worldviews. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that leaders and governors have clarity around how the school's Christian vision is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. • Establish strategically the development of spirituality through the school's curriculum. This is so spiritual flourishing can be enhanced. • Strengthen the impact of collective worship to support the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Weston-on-Trent is a loving and inclusive community where all are valued and treated with compassion and kindness. The school's Christian vision of 'Let your light shine' is deeply embedded and lived out. Pupils are supported to be the best version of themselves. As a result of this pupil's flourish and succeed. The school has a clear sense of the importance of Christian values. These</p>	

underpin the school's ethos. Pupils speak confidently about how the values of compassion, peace and humility help them live well together. High levels of respect and love shown to one another exemplify this.

Respect for others is a core value for this school. It is expressed in many ways. Older pupils act as role models. There is a deep understanding and celebration of everyone as an individual. Relationships are warm and caring. Collecting certificates for displaying Christian values is highly regarded. Personal development opportunities are a key part of the vision led ethos. Pupils learn to play instruments, take part in cooking lessons and represent their school in sporting events. Staff are committed to ensuring pupils have interesting and relevant experiences that enhance their academic learning.

The vision is highly inclusive. Leaders connect this to the Christian faith and the Bible. It inspired them to make bold decisions during a period of change for the school. Members of staff are supported to embrace and champion the vision. They live out the vision every day through their commitment to each individual pupil. Governors support the school well; they know the school and are passionate about its development. However, leaders and governors are not yet clear of the impact of the vision in enabling people to flourish. The school has strong links with the diocese. These are seen through the development of, and the growing understanding of, spirituality.

Learning at Weston-on Trent is driven by the vision. Pupils flourish because the staff carefully consider their starting points. Pupils acknowledge adults in school want them to grow both personally and academically. Those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) thrive. Leaders make creative and wise decisions to allow this to happen. This individual and inclusive ethos means they are given the support and skills they need to enable them to access learning. Adults are clear that pupils should be prepared to 'shine as they go out into the world.' As a result of this ethos, pupil numbers at Weston are growing with many families travelling to attend the school. Carefully planned and used curriculum resources are inclusive and diverse. This ensures that pupils look wider than themselves and their local community. They see themselves as agents of change. Pupils recognise their responsibilities to others and are advocates for social justice.

Pupils and adults flourish spiritually. There is a shared understanding that this relates to something that is 'bigger than yourself.' Pupils and adults link this to hope and wonder. Pupils articulate how holding the 500-year-old church key made them think about their place in history. Spiritual flourishing is supported by spaces for pupils to reflect and be still. As yet opportunities for spiritual development are not embedded across the curriculum.

Positive mental health is a high priority for all. Leaders are mindful of workload which ensures that staff are well cared for. As a result, staff are positive about working at the school. They know their wellbeing is a priority. Staff support each other and are confident and clear in the direction the school is taking. Pupils, along with adults, have a strong sense of belonging to this community. Their well-being is promoted and nurtured through the individual responsive approach taken by staff.

Collective worship is highly valued and shapes the lives of pupils and adults. The clear and familiar structure reflects the vision for all to shine. Pupils with SEND are enabled to contribute fully. The school community considers and reflects on the importance of their Christian values. These are enhanced with references to stories from the Bible and other resources. In exploring the value of perseverance pupils were asked to consider how Noah showed determination with his trust in God's message. They applied this to times they have needed to persevere themselves. Worship is enriched with music, song and laughter. Time is given for personal reflection and prayer. Pupils reflect on how worship helps them learn to love one another. Whilst there are indications that worship contributes to spiritual flourishing this is not fully embedded. Pupils are enthusiastic about how worship

encourages them. Parents and carers are welcomed to worship as part of the school family. The local church works closely with staff and pupils in school. Regular visits from the chaplain have a positive and lasting impact.

RE is confidently led, planned and taught. Pupils understand the relevance of it to their lives. This is because they are supported to ask questions and know their viewpoints will be respected by others. They speak passionately about the need to learn and understand so they can be respectful and knowledgeable. Some of the youngest pupils in the school enthusiastically recount stories from their lesson. They link these to their learning about the value of kindness seen in many religions. The curriculum is well-sequenced. It encompasses Christianity and a range of religions and worldviews. Well-chosen and diverse resources enhance the curriculum. Teaching, learning and assessment in RE is regularly monitored. High quality feedback is given to staff. They receive regular support from leaders. This ensures pupils make good progress. Effective training for developing RE is provided by the diocese. This ensures all developments are robust and accurate. Visits to places of worship are valued by staff and pupils to ensure learning comes to life and is given context.

The inspection findings indicate that Weston-on-Trent Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	9 May 2024	URN	112896
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	146
Diocese	Derby		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Mark Hibbert		
Chair	Colin Glynn		
Inspector	Jo Westaby	No.	2128