

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

### Smallwood Church of England Primary Academy

#### Vision

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16. Smallwood Church of England Primary Academy instils the love of learning into all who enter through its doors, with our Christian faith at the heart of everything that we do. Through a happy, secure, and stimulating environment, we aim to enable every pupil to SHINE in a rapidly changing world and to realise their full potential in life. **Skills. Hope, Inclusion, Nurture, Excellence.**

Smallwood Church of England Primary Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

#### Notable Strengths

- The thoughtfully crafted Christian vision and its associated values resonate throughout the school, positively impacting decisions and actions. Pupils and adults have a deep understanding of how the vision encourages them to reach their full potential. Consequently, they confidently ‘let their light shine’.
- There are many planned activities for reflection. These, together with spontaneous moments of spiritual exploration, give pupils a strong awareness of their own spiritual sense. Therefore, life here has a richness which allows pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.
- Pupils take part in a wealth of opportunities to enhance their lives. Activities, both within the curriculum and beyond, are inclusive and adapted to suit those wishing to take part. As a result, pupils discover and develop their interests and talents, therefore enjoying many chances to thrive.
- Collective worship, enhanced by the strong partnership with the church, is welcoming and exudes a sense of joy. Leaders ensure it responds to the needs of those it serves. It challenges and inspires and allows spiritual curiosity to blossom.
- The exemplary behaviour of pupils is shaped by the Christian vision and associated values. Staff and pupils look after each other with respect and kindness. Consequently, this is a happy place to be, a beacon of hope and love within the community.

#### Development Points

- Refine the curriculum to include a greater emphasis upon understanding how Christianity is practiced throughout the world. This is to enhance pupils’ knowledge of the many ways in which faith can be lived.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

Smallwood Church of England Primary School is a nurturing, exciting learning community, filled with joy and hope. Leaders and governors are fully committed to being guided by the Christian vision in their decisions and actions. They regularly evaluate the impact of these to ensure their positive effect. This means pupils and adults are given many wide-ranging opportunities to discover their passions and talents. Carefully chosen partnerships with the local church, diocese and other agencies bring challenge, support and inspiration, therefore enriching school life. Driven by the vision, leaders encourage pupils to develop a strong moral compass and voice. As a result, pupils are fully active in the life of the school. They plan and deliver worship, help charities, organise environmental campaigns and eagerly take on roles of responsibility. Through a strong understanding of the Christian values, pupils treat each other with respect, kindness and forgiveness. Therefore, this is a school where people live well together, encouraging and supporting each other to reach their full potential.

### Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum, inspired by the Christian vision is designed to enable pupils to shine in their own way. There is a firm belief that learning needs to go beyond the academic. Therefore, pupils are encouraged to develop creatively, spiritually and morally. The curriculum is woven with a multitude of rich learning opportunities both during school time and outside. Sensitively considered interventions ensure pupils who are deemed vulnerable and those who have special needs and/or disabilities can access these activities. These include playing in the school orchestra, singing in the choir, forest schools, gardening, chess and a variety of sports clubs. School trips take pupils beyond their day-to-day experience and open them up to the wider world. Pupils are encouraged to explore their spirituality in a range of ways such as through art and music. Searching questions and a designated time for reflection help them to consider life's mysteries. Reflection areas are well resourced and are valued by pupils as a place to have some quiet time with their thoughts. The beauty of the surroundings is celebrated and used for pupils to experience and appreciate the natural world. This gives them a sense of things greater than themselves, thus deepening their understanding of their own spirituality.

### Worship and Spirituality

Shaped by the Christian vision and associated values, collective worship is a time for celebration, reflection, prayer and learning. The strong partnership with the church enriches the community's experience of the Christian faith and ways of worship. Rituals such as the lighting of candles, words of welcome and the use of special prayers frame the structure of worship. This strengthens pupils' spiritual awareness and means that even the youngest recognise it as an important part of the school day. Leaders ensure that adaptations are made so that pupils can access worship in a way that is suited to their needs. Consequently, worship is welcoming, inclusive and driven by love and acceptance. Pupils clearly enjoy worship and participate with enthusiasm. They sing at the top of their voice so that the school resonates with joy. Bible stories, chosen to reflect the vision, secure a deep understanding of its relevance in day to day living. Pupils reflect on their own values and place in the wider world, deepening their appreciation of their own spirituality.

### Vision and School Culture

The vision creates an atmosphere of respect, kindness and compassion. In the morning, pupils and adults are warmly welcomed onto the school grounds, therefore, helping people feel included and loved. Pupils and adults describe their relationships as 'recognising the light in themselves and others'. This leads to treating each other with dignity and respect and therefore behaviour is exemplary. Wellbeing is prioritised for both pupils and adults through a strong culture of taking care of one another. The open-door policy allows staff to discuss any worries promptly and to seek further help if needed. Many initiatives have reduced staff workload and given more time for pursuing interests and life outside of school. This enriches staff and helps to sustain energy and enthusiasm. Leaders encourage staff to follow their passions and to be the best that they can be. They ensure



that training is correctly targeted to develop knowledge and skills. Therefore, staff feel confident in their abilities and know that they make a positive difference.

#### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

There are many opportunities for pupils to develop a sense of responsibility. House captains, the rose king and queen, and the faith and ethos council help promote this further. They are keen to help make their school and the wider community a better place and know that their actions have a positive impact. The 'faith and ethos council' take on causes such as improving the school environment and promoting anti-bullying. This helps create a culture of standing against injustice. Pupils see this as another way of 'letting their light shine' thus reflecting the impact of the Christian vision. Pupils study inspirational figures from modern times and history to instill a sense of the need to do the right thing. One child described standing up for justice as being like David when he stood up to Goliath. This reinforces the pupils' belief that just because you are small, you can still do great things.

#### Religious Education

Leaders and staff prioritise the teaching and learning of religious education (RE) as an academic subject. The strong partnership with the diocese means that staff are well trained and secure in their subject knowledge. The bespoke curriculum has been well planned for pupils to build on their prior knowledge and skills. Pupils learn about a wide range of worldviews and faiths and explore the importance of sacred texts. They study Bible stories and explore how these help Christians to develop their relationship with God. However, the study of faith on a global level is less developed. This limits pupils' understanding of the diversity of ways people live out their beliefs. Leaders ensure that there are opportunities for pupils to take part in thought provoking discussions relating to moral and ethical issues. These promote pupils' awareness of opposing views and provide opportunities for debate.

## Information

Address	School Lane, Smallwood, CW11 2UR.		
Date	10 February 2026	URN	140894
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	177
Diocese	Chester		
MAT	Smallwood Academy Trust		
Chair of the Board of Directors	Tom Pear		
Headteacher	Iestyn Lewis		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery		