Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Over St. John's Church of England Primary School

Vision

Let your light shine before others' Matthew 5:16.

Over St John's puts children first. From our roots of faith and respect, we accept challenge, develop confidence and inspire learning, so that children grow in love of God, prepared for their future.

Over St. John's Church of England Primary 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.

Notable Strengths

- The Christian vision is the driving force of school life. People are loved for who they are and their uniqueness is nurtured and celebrated. Therefore, compassion and ambition walk hand in hand, enabling pupils and adults to 'Let their light shine'.
- Relationships are deeply rooted in the Christian vision. People treat each other with exemplary kindness and respect. Consequently, school is a haven of trust, hope and dignity.
- Collective worship, enriched by the strong partnership with the church, is at the core of school life. It is welcoming and inclusive, responding to the needs of those it serves. It challenges and inspires and allows spiritual curiosity to blossom.
- Through their understanding of the Christian vision, pupils know that service to others is important. It helps them to be shining lights of hope for their locality and to become helpful citizens. Therefore, they enthusiastically take on roles to improve their community and so make a positive difference to the world.
- Inspired by the vision, the RE curriculum is challenging and inspiring, and has been developed to fit the needs of the school community. It explores the global perspectives of a range of religions and worldviews while keeping the local context at its heart. Consequently, pupils confidently and knowledgeably articulate their understanding of the subject.

Development Points

- Develop spaces and times specifically for non-directed reflection and so maximise opportunities for quiet contemplation and stillness. This is to deepen pupils' spiritual understanding of themselves.

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Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision is the driving force of decision making and actions at Over St. John's. Pupils and adults are valued as being uniquely created, each with their own gifts, talents and potential. They are encouraged to grow personally, spiritually, emotionally and academically. In addition, the vision promotes the understanding that, in order to fully flourish, you have to help others to do so. Therefore, leaders provide a wealth of opportunities for nurture, service, challenge and exploration to enable people to succeed. Leaders and governors regularly and meticulously evaluate the vision's relevance to the local context and its impact on school life. This means that it remains inspirational and meaningful and at the heart of all the school does. The strong partnerships with local schools, the local church and the diocese all enrich school life. For example. the recent art festival involved the local schools and churches. Together they explored and celebrated the diversity of faith. These projects deepen pupils' understanding of themselves and of issues in both their local area and further afield. Therefore, life here is lived to the full and people thrive.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum, inspired by the Christian vision, aims to create aspirational, confident and knowledgeable learners. Therefore, vulnerable pupils and those who have additional needs are supported to take part in learning activities. The curriculum deepens pupils' understanding of the Christian vision and its importance in everyday life. For example, local studies help to build their sense of pride in their locality and themselves. They explore the positives and challenges of their town and consider ways they can help their community to thrive. Pupils discover and nurture their talents and interests through the wide variety of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. Their knowledge of life beyond their locality is extended through school trips and residentials. Spiritual development is an increasingly important and integral part of the curriculum. Leaders plan opportunities for it to be explored throughout the subjects studied. For example, in science pupils appreciate the wonder of nature. At other times, pupils reflect on both the challenges and the wonderful moments in life and what these mean to them. As a result, they are becoming more confident in being able to look within themselves and to consider the big questions of life. At present, pupils take part in many teacher-led spiritual experiences. However, there are few opportunities for self-directed reflection. This limits their spiritual experience and spiritual growth.

Religious Education

RE is prioritised as an academic subject, enriched by the training and guidance given by the diocese. Leaders regularly monitor and evaluate the provision. This ensures that it is well resourced, inspirational and challenging while ensuring that support is there for those who may need it. The RE curriculum has been thoughtfully designed to be relevant to the local context whilst being global in its outlook. For example, pupils study 'What does it mean to live in a religiously diverse world'. They learn about the richness and diversity of faith in both their local area and the global context. Planned discussions challenge pupils to consider a wide range of ideas such as whether science disproves or complements faith-based beliefs of creation. Therefore, they are respectful of views that may differ from their own. The curriculum explores the stories from scriptures together with the main features of a wide range of religions and worldviews. Consequently, pupils understand how holy texts influence the lives of followers, appreciating the challenges and rewards this may bring.

Vision and School Culture

Inspired by the vision, people appreciate the uniqueness and worth in each other. This results in a kind-hearted and empathetic culture, instilling a strong sense of belonging to the community. Staff are passionate in ensuring that pupils feel accepted for who they are and that they are able to live with dignity and respect. Staff feel well looked after. They feel empowered to follow their interests and develop their careers while maintaining a positive feeling of wellbeing. Therefore, they feel valued and are treated well and so mirror this in their exemplary relationships with pupils. Leaders and governors ensure that the vision guides policies and procedures. This has led to a restorative behaviour policy where relationships are built on understanding and forgiveness. Pupils learn how to manage their feelings and to talk about their emotions, thus helping them to

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remain calm and focussed. As a result, this is a school where hope, friendship and understanding thrive, enabling people live well together.
Vision, Justice and Responsibility The deep understanding of the vision means pupils recognise that service to others is important and will benefit both themselves and those they serve. Throughout their time in school, they study themes such as conflict, inequality and the need to preserve the natural world. This instils a strong sense of justice and a desire to help others. For example, after studying the United Nations global targets for sustainability, pupils were concerned about pollution in the oceans. They researched the issues and then led a project to educate the local community on the need to reduce plastic in the oceans. Thus, pupils believe their actions can make a positive difference. Therefore, they enthusiastically take up roles of responsibility such as play leaders, agents of change and school councillors. This creates a culture where the community regards acts of service as highly important in helping everyone to thrive.
Worship and Spirituality Collective worship is joyful, meaningful, inspirational and inclusive. The school community values it as a time to re-set, reflect and to enjoy coming together. Compassion and understanding shine through. Pupils are supported in many different ways so that they can comfortably attend, contribute and enjoy worship. Stories, including those from the Bible, explore how the vision and associated values can inspire positive actions. The strong partnership with the local church enriches the experience of Christian worship. Visits to the local church create a sense of awe and wonder. The popular 'Open the Book' sessions bring Bible stories to life and help pupils understand their relevance to Christians today. Songs add an element of joy to worship, while reflection and prayers give time to pause and think. During reflection, pupils and adults are prompted to consider the world around them as well as their own values and actions. Consequently, worship enables those in the school community to grow in spiritual awareness.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Delamere Street, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2LU		
Date	15 October 2026	URN	111263
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No of pupils	137
Diocese	Chester		
Headteacher	Emma Snowdon		
Chair of Governors	Hayley Rogers		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery		

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