

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

St Benedict Biscop CofE Primary School, Wombourne	
Address	School Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton, WV5 9DZ
School vision	
<p>St. Benedict Biscop is a school where we are learning and growing together (community) in Christian friendship, through the life and teachings of Jesus to achieve academic and personal success. Following Jesus enables all adults and children to flourish. 'Encourage one another and build each other up.' 1 Thessalonians 5:11</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The deeply embedded Christian vision is understood and lived at St. Benedict Biscop. It clearly drives all decisions and actions in the work of this Church school. As a result, pupils and adults flourish.</li> <li>• Inspired by the vision, the common language for spirituality is interwoven during acts of worship and throughout the curriculum. This contributes significantly to enhancing personal spiritual development.</li> <li>• Christian love shapes relationships, at all levels, binding this small school together in friendship and care for one another. A community that radiates a strong sense of self-worth and wellbeing is the outcome.</li> <li>• Successful partnerships exist between St Bartholomew's multi-academy trust (MAT), the governors, Lichfield Diocese and the church. These enhance the inclusive, nurturing and aspirational culture of the school and are instrumental in enabling academic and personal success.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is well-planned and skilfully led. The curriculum is engaging and clearly builds on prior learning. This has led to pupils demonstrating a deep knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore ways to increase opportunities for pupils to independently challenge injustice. This is to empower them to be capable of making meaningful changes.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>The hand of Christian friendship is warmly offered to the school community and to anyone who visits St. Benedict Biscop. Inspired by the vision to learn and grow together, leaders are committed to ensuring individuals are seen, heard and valued. The four core Christian values of generosity, forgiveness, friendship, and perseverance are rooted in the life of the school. Naturally demonstrated by adults and pupils alike, the impact is deeply felt amongst the community. Parents comment on how their children bring the values home. They are proud of how their older children continue to demonstrate these values at high school. A positive influence on family life is the result. The school joined St. Bartholomew's multi-academy trust, knowing the MAT's vision and the</p>	



school's vision were wholly aligned. Following Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' to enable flourishing, is at the heart of both visions. Leaders, including governors, ensure it is central to all decision making and are jointly responsible for monitoring the impact. Therefore, leaders' evaluations clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of how the school's distinctively Christian vision enables pupils and adults to flourish.

Building pupils up to achieve their potential drives the inclusive, wider curriculum ethos that underpins pupils' learning experiences. Shaped by the vision, it provides rich and creative learning that is explicitly linked to the school's village context. Leaders ensure pupils are supported to expand their world view through the multicultural and multi-faith learning the nearby city offers. Through careful lesson planning, authors, composers, artists and scientists from a diverse range of backgrounds are celebrated. Deep thinking and an understanding of the wider world in which pupils' live is the outcome. Staff know their pupils well and understand their individual social, emotional and learning needs. Bespoke adaptations are swiftly put in place to ensure those needs are met. Barriers to learning are removed as a result. Leaders are committed to ensuring pupils develop spirituality. As such, adults and pupils have a deep understanding of where their personal spiritual pathway can be enhanced. Through a shared language of thoughtful questioning and reflection, connections are able to be made across all subjects. Outdoor learning experiences, mindfulness and a programme of daily moments of stillness are deeply valued. Pupils and staff give examples of how this supports them to connect with God, themselves and the world around them. This approach significantly contributes to individual spiritual flourishing. A breadth of extra-curricular activities are offered to further develop pupils' personal talents and interests. These include the arts, sports, design technology and 'Christian club'. Bold decisions are made by leaders to maximise these enrichment opportunities. For example, extra staffing is funded to ensure lunchtime clubs can take place to enable access for all. This has resulted in an increased uptake from pupils, including those identified as disadvantaged and those with additional needs. Consequently, this enhances their potential and broadens their aspirations. This is intrinsic to the academic and personal success of all pupils, which clearly reflects the school's Christian vision.

Collective worship impacts on the lives of the whole school community. This is because it fosters a deep sense of spirituality which permeates all aspects of school life. Central to daily worship are powerful moments of stillness. These allow time and space to consider the Christian messages and to make spiritual connections. As one pupil put it, 'I feel like I am having a chat with God.' Engagement with the diocese also enriches spirituality through events such as, 'Inspire' at Lichfield Cathedral. Adults and pupils express how they were profoundly moved by it. Worship is thoughtfully planned to help pupils understand what the vision and values mean to them. Leaders ensure pupils are celebrated for demonstrating these values during the weekly awards assembly. As a result, pupils speak positively of how worship guides their thinking and actions. The MAT offers training for leaders in spiritual deepening, as well as support in the delivery of collective worship. Consequently, the trust positively impacts on the worship life of the school. A broad range of visitors, which include the local church 'open the book team,' help to shape worship. This variety of styles effectively engages all in learning Bible stories and about the teachings of Jesus. The breadth of worship in school and in church is appreciated by staff, pupils and their families. As a result, worship is enriching the spiritual development of the community. Leaders know this because of their regular monitoring of the impact that the distinctively Christian vision has on worship.

Christian friendship is at the heart of the caring relationships at this school. Committed to prioritising wellbeing, leaders, including governors, ensure staff are nurtured personally and professionally. The trust enhances this through their programme that supports emotional wellbeing, as well as widening opportunities for further qualifications. Consequently, staff are united in knowing that they are valued and loved. Parent views show they cherish the excellent relationships the school provides. Pupils also feel cared for and replicate that in their kind attitudes towards one

another. They understand that arguments happen but resolve them through forgiveness and moving on. Older pupils support younger ones during breaktimes to ensure they are included in play. Open for prayer each day, and by offering coffee and a chat, the church welcomes families and staff. As such, the church's offer of spiritual support enhances the school's nurturing culture of wellbeing.

Living out the vision creates an environment where justice and responsibility prevails. This is because pupils understand and advocate to 'encourage one another and build each other up.' Pupils strengthen their sense of responsibility by volunteering for leadership roles that include, school councillors and worship ambassadors. Motivated to equip pupils to become agents for change, leaders encourage them to take responsibility for local and global issues. This is fostered through fundraising and accredited awards, empowering pupils to make a difference. However, occasions for pupils to independently challenge injustice and influence meaningful changes are underdeveloped.

Expert leadership of RE ensures the curriculum effectively builds on prior learning. 'Big questions' drive the lessons ensuring they are explored through creative and engaging teaching. This stimulates critical thinking and ensures spiritual flourishing is at the heart of pupils' RE experience. Leaders access diocesan and MAT training, which is disseminated to staff. The provision has enabled pupils to gain a deep knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews. They articulately talk about their faiths, with an understanding and respect for the views of others as a result. Consequently, pupils clearly demonstrate how their thought provoking contributions enable their spiritual flourishing in RE.

The inspection findings indicate that St. Benedict Biscop Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	23 May 2024	URN	143829
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	157
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	St Bartholomew's CE Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Nicola Scott-Worthington		
Chair	Gill Bladon		
Inspector	Beverley Roberts	No.	2122