



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Holly Hill Methodist CofE Church School	
Address	New Street, Frankley, Birmingham, B45 0EU

School vision

Life in All its Fullness

'Life in All its Fullness' (John 10:10) and our Christian values are the foundations to affect change from within the heart of our community. Children are encouraged to develop strong aspirations, educationally, socially and spiritually, with a desire to make a positive difference to the world.

School strengths

- Holly Hill is a beacon of hope, love and faith in this community. Lives are transformed for the better because of the school's Christian vision.
- School leaders and staff are wholehearted about nurturing goodness and aspiration in every pupil. They have developed an innovative curriculum so that everyone can live life in all its fullness.
- Collective worship is a precious time of spiritual refreshment at the beginning of every day. It imbues feelings of belonging, security and joy.
- There is a wonderful sense of harmony and practical care demonstrated by the 'Holly Hill family'. Pupils and staff grow in their desire to make the world a better place for everyone.
- School leaders have carefully planned a creative and effective curriculum for religious education (RE). It enables pupils to become curious and show respect, as they grow to understand religious and non-religious worldviews.

Areas for development

- Explore further opportunities to share excellent practice as a church school. This is to enrich the experience of pupils in this school through partnerships in a new multi-academy trust.

Inspection findings

Holly Hill Church School is a very special place where people are nurtured to live life in all its fullness. Pupils learn how to live well together in an atmosphere of high expectation, opportunity and ambition. The Christian vision is at the heart of all that is done so that people flourish. Devoted school leaders and staff consider deeply what is best for its pupils, their families and the local community. They honour the worth of others and go out of their way to meet individual academic, spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs. Pupils are reassured to be their best selves and this develops self-belief. Staff also encourage a harmonious community of compassion and care for others and the wider world. There is a strong representation of clergy and members from Methodist

and Church of England traditions within the governing body. Therefore, it is well equipped with wisdom to be a highly effective and inspirational church school. Their love, prayers and service mean that Jesus' message of 'life in all its fullness', become a life-changing reality. Staff benefit from training, coaching and encouragement that enables them to advance as professionals.

Consequently, the school is continually moving forward to give the hope of a bright future for its staff and pupils. The school is part of a rich network of Methodist and Anglican support locally and nationally. This enhances living and learning through a deeply considered church school curriculum. Holly Hill shares its exemplary practice generously with other schools. It is excited about developing and extending its vision as it takes on a lead role in the development of a new Methodist multi-academy trust. The school is a place where all are welcome and 'watched over in love'. Thus, fulfilling the words and sentiments of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley.

School leaders make bold decisions and provide an ambitious and wholesome education within the community that it serves. This is especially evident for pupils with specific and complex learning needs. Specialist provision ensures that they blossom holistically within this loving school community. An innovative curriculum sets pupils off an exciting and rewarding learning journey. It reflects the school's vision that academic, social and spiritual growth are integral to living life in all its fullness. Staff invest in time to make sure that pupils are practically and emotionally ready to learn. They employ care and imagination to create an environment that is calm, inspirational and purposeful. As a result, pupils learn well alongside each other. Day by day, the curriculum makes pupils more aware of a bigger world with its wonders, opportunities and challenges. Life-enhancing experiences, such as extra-curricular provision and visits, are made accessible for all pupils. Staff develop trusting relationships with parents and carers. This strengthens support for pupil wellbeing and aspiration.

Collective worship is a very special time and space at the beginning of each school day. It sets a tone of calm and reflection, focusing the school community together on things that are good. Music and images are used powerfully to stir emotions such as serenity and joy. Pupils and adults revel in singing and signing. They learn an established sign language to communicate in a way that includes others. Everyone has the opportunity to talk to God, to say thank you or to ask for help. Consequently, collective worship makes a significant contribution to the spiritual growth of pupils and adults. Challenges and rewards for showing Christian values urge pupils to live well and make a difference to the lives of others. The Christian vision of life in all its fullness is explored through twelve Christian values that are rooted in love. The school community becomes more gentle, hopeful, respectful, patient, loving, tolerant, forgiving, kind, honest, thankful, joyous and friendly. Each value has an associated Bible verse. Pupils hear and act out Bible stories that help them to put the values into practice. For example, pupils explain how the parable of The Good Samaritan shows them to be kind to everyone.

'Do all the good you can,' is the first line of the school's prayer, attributed to John Wesley. Pupils know it well as it appears on some of the many beautiful school displays. It is also a rousing song recorded electronically which unites pupils at Holly Hill with Methodist schools across the world. However, more importantly, these words are lived out in deeds of goodness within the Holly Hill community. They are deeply concerned about each other's wellbeing. Pupils and adults develop a heartfelt desire to make a difference for good. Ripples of compassion and kindness extend from school to homes, into the local community and wider world. Each half-term, the curriculum focuses on a famous inspirational person, such as Rosa Parks, John Cadbury and David Attenborough. As a result, pupils develop a strong desire to do something to make the world a better and fairer place for everyone. For example, they have initiated the collection of toys to send to children in Ukraine and are enraged about litter in the local community. The school serves the needs of the local community in numerous practical ways. Recently, the Holly Hill Church has been established, meeting weekly in the school. It is a generous outpouring of its Methodist conviction that hope, love and faith are 'for

all'. Adults and pupils who learn to live 'life in all its fullness' enable others to live more fully as well.

School leaders and teachers are resolute about the unique contribution of RE to a full and rounded education. They describe a unique spiritual atmosphere at the time in the week when the subject is taught across the school. RE is planned effectively to be meaningful for young pupils. They enjoy learning in creative ways such as acting out a story or engaging in a practical activity. They reflect on their experiences and develop a proficient language to talk about faith and beliefs. Furthermore, learning in RE is enhanced because of the rich culture of respectful debate, curiosity and questioning. The curriculum ensures that topics are revisited so that pupils can recall what they have learned. Age-appropriate systems are in place to gauge pupil progress. As a result, pupils go on to develop a deep understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. RE is enriched with visits to places of worship. This broadens the experiences of pupils and enables them to appreciate how faith shapes the lives of real people.

Holly Hill Church School is a beacon of hope. It draws pupils and adults to look up and believe that life is to be lived to the full.

The inspection findings indicate that Holly Hill Methodist Church of England Church School is living up to its foundations as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	23 May 2024	URN	103479
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	145
Diocese	Birmingham Birmingham Methodist District		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Mark Carr		
Chair	Karen Handford		
Inspector	Angela Daniel	No.	757