



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

John Fletcher Church of England/Methodist Primary School, Madeley	
Address	Upper Road, Madeley, TF7 5DL

School vision
<p>‘Whatever you do, work at it with all you heart’, Colossians 3:23 We want to inspire our learners and the community to see learning as a joy; a gateway to a successful future.</p> <p>It is our belief that each child is a unique individual – a creation of God, and every child, without exception, is precious. Our aim is to nurture and encourage them to recognise this in themselves and others, and so be the best that they can be: to know that if they put their heart into what they do, they can realise their dreams.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian vision is a living reality as school leaders and staff are whole-hearted about inspiring hope and aspiration for every pupil.</li> <li>• School leaders respond wisely and compassionately to meet their pupils’ needs and so fulfil the Christian vision. They adapt the curriculum and provide an inspirational learning environment in which pupils and staff flourish.</li> <li>• Collective worship is a time of spiritual refreshment at the beginning of every day. It fills hearts with a sense of belonging, security and joy.</li> <li>• As a result of the Christian vision, there is a wonderful sense of harmony and practical care demonstrated by everyone in the ‘John Fletcher family’. This sustains the school and local community, including through challenging times.</li> <li>• A carefully planned religious education (RE) curriculum has been developed. It enables pupils to show respect as they discuss and understand a range of religions and worldviews.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further develop a shared language of spirituality so that adults and pupils express themselves with an even richer understanding.</li> <li>• Empower pupils by giving them more opportunities to take action on the ethical and social issues that they care about.</li> <li>• Enhance the RE curriculum so that pupils can appreciate a wider breadth of Christian belief and practice.</li> </ul>
Inspection findings
<p>Love is the heartbeat of this school, elevating everyone’s experience of life and learning. The Christian vision is evident as love in action, which motivates every aspect of school and transforms lives. Members of this cohesive and loving school community are driven to follow in the footsteps of the Methodist preacher, John Fletcher. He served the community of Madeley with Christian</p>



goodness. The school builds on its joint Anglican and Methodist foundations as it continues to do all the good that it can. Staff are driven by compassion and commitment to welcome people into the 'John Fletcher family'. Consequently, there is an infectious sense of acceptance and belonging. The school is rigorous about ensuring that the school is a safe space and, as a result, pupils flourish. Governors, with a passion for the Christian vision of the school, ensure that wise decisions are made for the common good. Staff prioritise the vision by investing time to understand and care for every pupil. Ambition is sparked as pupils discover their own unique talents. Achievements, both academic and as good citizens, are celebrated so that pupils grow in self-belief. School leaders are resolute that the school is for everyone in this community. This is supported by strong policies and a huge heart for inclusion. As a result, the school revels in its diversity. The school's vision is underpinned by an understanding of the Christian faith shared by the Church of England and Methodist churches. Expressed in the words of Jesus, school members are committed to loving their 'neighbour', whoever they are.

Inspired by the vision, leaders ensure that no pupil misses out on the joy of life and learning. They constantly review the curriculum so that it is vibrant and engaging. Pupils' breadth of learning is meaningfully enhanced by enrichment activities within the school day. Leaders and staff have an extraordinary determination to creatively re-imagine what can be done differently as circumstances change. Pupils experience success and fulfilment as they are provided with carefully tailored learning experiences. Leaders committedly aspire to meet the needs of vulnerable pupils. Special educational needs and disabilities provision is exceptionally well resourced and pupils with a wide range of needs flourish. A specialist hub has recently opened with vulnerable pupils settling quickly and happily.

Daily collective worship is a powerful source of comfort and belonging as the school community comes together as one. Leaders deliberately place it at the beginning of the school day, setting hearts and minds ready for the day ahead. Collective worship inspires spiritual growth as pupils flourish in an atmosphere of joy, love and peace. Music plays a very important part in lifting spirits and putting smiles on faces. Pupils rejoice as they sing songs of praise that are relevant, catchy and led with infectious enthusiasm. Leaders plan for worship so that pupils know a wide range of Bible stories, especially about the life of Jesus. They relate biblical teaching to their own lives, for example, generously forgiving each other when there is hurt. Pupils become aware that life is not easy sometimes but are assured they can reach out to others and God. They are invited to share in a range of prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer and prayers that ask for help in 'tricky times'. The pupil worship team delight in leading worship and their spirituality is infectious. They present Bible stories in a lively and relevant way, providing opportunities for reflection and prayer.

A great sense of fulfilment motivates the devoted staff team to be the best that they can be for every pupil. Leaders trust staff and provide high quality training so that they thrive professionally. Adults watch over one another in love, encouraging each other through difficult times. Staff work hard to prepare pupils for learning by ensuring that their practical and emotional needs are met. Pupils emulate the understanding and acceptance of each other that has been shown to them by staff. They treat each other with respect and dignity. Christian values motivate staff and pupils alike to work with all their heart, even when teaching and learning is demanding. Hope, aspiration, resilience, perseverance, compassion and forgiveness are like a regular heartbeat across the school.

Throughout the day, opportunities for spiritual growth abound. The school's environments are designed thoughtfully and imaginatively so that pupils feel at ease. A warm and homely atmosphere wraps around every pupil. The curriculum inspires pupils to enjoy simple moments of pure wonder. Pupils delight in God's creation, especially when on school visits to places of natural beauty. School leaders have invited a Methodist lay worker to strengthen provision for spiritual development. This has empowered pupils to create and plan inspirational places and times to think about Bible stories,

pray and have fun. However, a shared language used to describe spiritual experiences is less developed. This limits the ability of adults and pupils to talk within increasing depth about spiritual growth.

Motivated by its vision, the school extends its heart of service and kindness to the wider community. Staff prioritise pastoral support for pupils and families, actively promoting the wellbeing and self-esteem of each pupil. The school's powerful partnership with local support agencies transforms lives. Working closely with families strengthens the school's vision for pupils to be the best that they can be. The Christian vision is realised as pupils show compassion in practical ways within the local community. They generously donate to a local food bank and share their musical talents at community and church events. Consequently, the school's joy and hopefulness extend beyond the school's doors. Across the school, pupils regularly discuss current issues of inequality and injustice. Through debate, they develop strong feelings about issues, such as global conflicts and the environment. However, there are limited opportunities for pupils to initiate projects to bring about change.

School leaders ensure that RE is of high importance in the school. Staff develop professionally through high quality subject training. Consequently, a well-sequenced curriculum and challenging teaching enable pupils to build effectively on their prior learning. They are able to remember and speak knowledgeably about different religions and worldviews. Pupils learn well about central beliefs of the Christian faith by studying Bible texts. However, pupils' understanding of the diversity of belief and practice is less secure. Carefully crafted lessons encourage pupils to debate questions of meaning and purpose. As a result, pupils explore aspects of spiritual growth, deepening their thinking.

The Christian vision is encompassed in the hearts of this school community. It inspires and sustains leaders and staff through times of joy and challenge. In this way, pupils and adults flourish with confidence and compassion.

The inspection findings indicate that John Fletcher Church of England/ Methodist Primary School, Madeley is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	12 October 2023	URN	123526
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	251
Diocese	Hereford		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Stacey Cross		
Chair	Paul Owens		
Inspector	Angela Daniel	No.	757