

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew's Church of England / Methodist VA Primary School, Dronfield	
Address	Pentland Road, Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 8ZQ

School vision
'Let love and kindness be the motivation for all that you do.' 1 Corinthians 16:14
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is deeply rooted at St Andrew's. It binds the school community in a singularity of purpose that supports adults and pupils to flourish. Leaders at all levels ensure that the vision and its associated values enrich the experiences of all. • Pupils and adults are treated well because kindness and love underpin relationships. • Inspirational collective worship is rich and varied. It encourages individuals in their personal spiritual growth. • Pupils are courageous in their determination to change their world for the better. The adults in school support them to speak out and take action to challenge injustice. • Religious education (RE) provides pupils with a challenging and exciting curriculum. This stimulates their interest in, and knowledge and understanding of, a range of religions and worldviews.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the curriculum provides opportunities for all pupils to explore equality and diversity. This is to equip them for life in a multi-cultural and diverse world. • Strengthen knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews through contact with different faith communities.
Inspection findings
<p>The roots of the vision at St Andrew's are deeply Christian. Governors and school leaders are clear about its biblical foundation and its appropriateness for their context. The diocesan vision and John Wesley's 'Rule of Life' provide coherence for this joint Anglican and Methodist school. The vision is inclusive and accessible to everyone. Pupils and adults understand that the three key values of kindness, trust and perseverance are at the heart of living out the vision. The vision's simplicity ensures that even those who are very young can articulate what it means to them. It inspires thoughts and actions across the school community when faced with challenging times. During a time of great sadness the vision was at the heart of how adults and pupils supported one another.</p> <p>The vision transforms lives because it shines through the life of the school. It underpins policies, decisions and practices. Strong and effective partnerships with the Diocese of Derby and the Methodist Church provide valued support for the school. In turn, the school generously offers support to others. Leaders are relentless in their drive that the school should enhance the lives of pupils and adults. Procedures for monitoring the impact of the vision across the school are well</p>

established. These lead to positive change. Highly supportive governors are equally emphatic that the school's vision should be the foundation and inspiration for the flourishing of all. Governors assess at each meeting how their decisions have contributed to furthering the vision.

Collective worship invigorates and enriches every day. It includes everyone, and all are invited to participate. Staff and pupils value these times. Meaningful opportunities to engage with one another and reflect on their own spirituality are provided. Close partnerships with local churches strengthen worship. Contributions from church leaders and pupils provide a range of insights on Bible stories, themes and celebrations. This supports spiritual flourishing. Visits to St Andrew's church, which shares the same site, enrich community life. Pupils are engaged in all that is offered in worship. One commented that worship 'always gives me something to think about.' Praying at school encourages some to pray at home, 'believing someone is there to listen.' Discussion in classrooms to develop the themes of worship enhances understanding. Pupils value these times of deeper reflection.

People flourish at St Andrew's because this is a community where treating others with love and kindness is strikingly normal. Relationships are strong. They underpin the effectiveness of the school in supporting pupils and their families. Parents speak of a school where 'nothing is too much trouble because this school just loves my child.' Pupil buddies ensure that those new to school always have someone to turn to. A pupil struggling to settle into school gained emotional support from the provision of a 'Transition Teddy'. Behaviour is excellent and smiling infectious. Vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) thrive. This is because the school supports both their academic needs and their emotional and social wellbeing. Staff are equally valued. Their wellbeing is a priority. Leaders support staff workload and wellbeing through practical actions. An 'open door' policy is appreciated and staff have access to support when required. They benefit from professional development opportunities that support their understanding of what it means to work in a Church school. A strong sense of togetherness pervades their work so 'no one feels like they have to do it alone.'

The carefully constructed curriculum inspires pupils and enables them to flourish. The values of kindness, perseverance and trust are at the heart of the curriculum. Leaders are passionate that all should have every opportunity to learn and achieve their potential. Enrichment to the taught and wider curriculum is well embedded. Through a range of clubs and teams, such as the eco and wellbeing councils, all are encouraged to develop talents and interests. The school's approach to spiritual development is highly effective. Opportunities for reflection are woven into all aspects of the curriculum. Pupils and adults talk about windows, mirrors and doors. This approach enables them to look outwards, reflect on their own lives and decide how they will respond. For example, pupils considered the issue of food waste in the environment. This prompted them to take action. Fruit left over during the school day is now made available for people to take away at home time. The lack of cultural diversity across the school community means that staff consistently look for ways to widen pupils' experiences. Whilst there are opportunities to explore diversity across the curriculum, leaders are not yet clear of its impact.

St Andrew's is a community generous with the love and kindness it shows to those outside the school. With support from staff, pupils consider what is fair and unjust in the world. They apply a strong sense of justice and responsibility. They work collaboratively and demonstrate the power of the school's vision to change lives. St Andrew's partnership with schools in Kolkata, India, provides a vital connection with the wider world. Through visits by members of staff, pupils have developed an understanding of life there. They are rightly proud of having generated ideas and raised money to support the building of two schools. At a local level, food collections for the homeless in Sheffield are organised.

RE is highly valued by pupils. This is because curriculum planning is effective. Learning is revisited

across the key stages. As a result, a depth and breadth of knowledge about a range of religions and worldviews is evident. However, opportunity for faith-based visits and visiting speakers is underdeveloped. Pupils ask pertinent questions because teachers deftly encourage their curiosity. Religious vocabulary is used when giving complex answers. Effective monitoring ensures pupils make consistently good progress. Clear systems for assessing learning are in place and gaps or misconceptions are addressed. Achievement is high because teaching is engaging, purposeful and collaborative. Effective training for developing RE is provided by the diocese and the Methodist Church.

The inspection findings indicate that St Andrew's Church of England and Methodist School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	24 April 2024	URN	112913
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	217
Diocese	Derby		
MAT/Federation			
Acting headteachers	Trish Barnett & Juliet Lee		
Chair	Craig Handford		
Inspector	Jane Lewis	No.	27