

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Paul's Church of England Academy, Tipton	
Address	Robert Road, Tipton, Dudley, DY4 9BH
School vision	
<p>At St. Paul's we walk by faith and not by sight guided by the love of Jesus Christ. Our vision is to be a school inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus so that all children and adults reach their full God given potential. Our Christian values underpin all that we do at St. Paul's: love, hope, faith, forgiveness</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lived and breathed Christian vision guides the school's actions and decision making at all levels. As a result, pupils and adults are empowered to reach their God given potential. • Underpinned by the vision, pupils, including those with additional needs, embrace the many enrichment opportunities offered through the curriculum. These experiences foster faith and hope in pupils' success, enabling them to flourish. • Vibrant, inclusive and inspiring collective worship is a natural expression of the school's Christian vision. This offers opportunities for pupils and adults to experience prayer and reflection, contributing significantly to personal spiritual growth. • Strong relationships and loving pastoral care creates a nurturing environment that enhances the wellbeing of pupils and adults. The broader impact of the Christian vision transcends beyond the school, by reaching out to effectively support the local community. • Shaped by the vision, the well planned religious education (RE) curriculum successfully builds on prior learning. Consequently, pupils demonstrate a rich knowledge and understanding of world religions and worldviews. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend opportunities for planned spiritual experiences across the curriculum and through outdoor learning activities. This is to enhance pupils' spiritual development. • Increase opportunities for pupils to challenge injustice and make ethical choices about global issues. This is to empower them to live out the Christian vision, offering faith and hope as positive agents of change. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>St. Paul's is a place where the community lovingly walks together by faith and not by sight. Leaders enable new parents to share in the Christian vision, from the earliest introduction. As a result, it is completely embedded and universally understood, so all can benefit from the way it is lived out. Resonating deeply with pupils, they say it means to 'walk in the presence of God, even if you are blind'. Staff and families feel rooted here. They hold a deep connection to the school and share moving stories of belonging. Leaders, at all levels, cherish the vision ensuring it permeates all policies, decision making and development planning. They are deeply committed to evaluating the</p>	

impact to ensure adults and pupils flourish. Dedicated governors challenge and support leaders. This results in successful decision making around school improvement and wellbeing. Consequently, a tangible atmosphere of Christian love, hope and faith prevails, creating an oasis that enables flourishing.

An effective Church school education that reflects St. Paul's urban context serves as the foundation for the curriculum offer. Leaders are determined in their drive to provide quality learning that is inclusive and empowering. Staff understand their pupils well and adapt learning to ensure they have equal opportunity to contribute during lessons. Robust support systems and bespoke interventions are in place, so all can participate. This enables pupils, including those with additional needs and those who are vulnerable, to experience success. 'If you have faith to do something, you can do it,' is what children say. Many spontaneous activities that promote spiritual growth have been identified by staff, across the curriculum. However, planned opportunities to nurture individuals' spiritual development are underdeveloped and limit spiritual flourishing. To foster pupils' potential and ambition, a wide range of visits and enrichment opportunities are organised. These include a visiting art specialist, as well as trips to the Houses of Parliament and the beach. This broadens horizons, making a substantial contribution to pupils' personal development. The school also lovingly provides a breadth of extra-curricular activities at minimal or no cost. This means, irrespective of personal circumstances, all can participate. Inspired by Jesus' love making a positive difference to others, pupils are supported in believing they can too. Enhanced self-belief is the result, demonstrated by personal aspirations to be future politicians who change laws to help people. Consequently, these rich learning experiences support each unique individual to thrive and reach their God given potential.

As a natural expression of the school's Christian vision, collective worship has a profound effect upon the whole community. The well-planned programme successfully reflects and explores both the Christian calendar and the especially chosen values. These deepen pupils' understanding of the connection between the vision and biblical texts. It is very impressive how even the youngest children are familiar with Bible stories and their key messages. This results in pupils having a clear understanding of how they apply Jesus' teachings to their own actions. Parents are proud of how their children live out the values at home, demonstrating the beneficial impact of worship on families. There is a strong relationship between the school and church members. A weekly 'Open the Book' service, involving the pupils, is an example of their regular involvement. The entire community cherishes the opportunity to share in collective worship. It is extremely welcoming, reflective and joyous. Parents express their love of being included and how much it supports their spiritual growth. Pupil voice shows it helps them to feel calm, connect with God and reflect on their actions. Staff say collective worship gives them time to reflect too. These views evidence the significant contribution it has on spiritual flourishing. Class reflection areas also enable pupils to share thoughts and prayers, enriching their spiritual experience. Parent and pupil questionnaires convey their deeply considered worship evaluations. This feedback, together with monitoring results, ensures improvements are made and the effect on spiritual development is fully evaluated. Leadership supports other schools' collective worship as well. This results in St. Paul's positive impact on spiritual flourishing being far reaching, beyond the local community.

Leaders have created an environment that enables the vision to be lived out through their exemplary pastoral care. Families appreciate the open door policy and the approachability of staff, at every level. Parents are made to feel welcome through initiatives such as weekly stay and play sessions. Leaders are constantly developing ways of supporting families during difficult times. As a result, parents describe a deep sense of belonging. A strong commitment to wellbeing is at the heart of this Church school leadership. Staff value the love and support they receive. Innovative ways to ensure a work life balance are firmly in place and highly appreciated. Professional development opportunities with the diocese, network schools and national qualifications contribute significantly to the high

level of adults' expertise. Consequently, personal and professional wellbeing is enhanced. Pupils are given guidance, support and the time needed to build trusting relationships. They graciously look after each other, saying the values help them to remember to be kind. This shows a school that offers unconditional love to one another, resulting in a strong sense of wellbeing.

A breadth of leadership opportunities including 'eco-committee' and 'art ambassadors' results in an influential pupil voice. They value this and link it to democracy. As part of the curriculum, inspirational role models who have brought about change are studied by each class. This successfully develops an understanding of how to challenge injustice and take responsibility. Pupils talk about local and global issues they are concerned about, as well as charitable work they have supported. However, opportunities for them to be effective agents for change are underdeveloped.

RE is highly prioritised and well-planned. It effectively builds on prior knowledge. Leaders benefit from diocesan training, which is disseminated to staff. The impact of this is engaging and effective teaching. Pupils value the way that RE provides a safe space in which they can ask questions and share their viewpoints. Their religious literacy is impressive with pupils displaying a rich knowledge and understanding of world religions and worldviews. They articulately discuss how this helps them relate to others' cultures and beliefs. An appreciation of difference and the diverse world in which they live is the result. Through focused evaluation, leaders can clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of the curriculum in ensuring pupils flourish in RE.

The inspection findings indicate that St. Paul's Church of England Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	21 March 2024	URN	140921
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	202
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust		
Principal	Anna McGuire		
Chair	Craig Taylor		
Inspector	Beverley Roberts	No.	2122