

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

<b>St Barnabas Church of England VC First and Middle School, Pershore</b>	
Address	Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton, WR10 2AW
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>We are an inclusive Church School with a commitment to providing quality education that meets the needs of all. We aim to create successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens through our Christian approach of love and cooperation. 'Let all that you do be done in love' encourages us to have a lifelong love of learning so we flourish as human beings.</p> <p>'Let all that you do be done in love' - Corinthians 16:14</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders, staff and pupils are inspired by the school's vision; it is lived out daily in the life of the school, meaning families and individuals receive the support they need to flourish academically and emotionally.</li> <li>Focus on school's Christian vision, and associated values, ensure that pupils gain a depth of understanding of how it impacts on their life, including their development as leaders. This is evidenced by pupils' clear involvement in the planning, leading and evaluating collective worship.</li> <li>The school curriculum, driven by the vision and which includes religious education (RE), motivates both staff and children; however, opportunities for pupils to explore diversity within other communities is limited.</li> <li>The partnership with the Diocese of Worcester multi-academy trust (DoWMAT) is mutually beneficial. Leaders' plans for further collaboration are at an early stage.</li> <li>There is a strong focus on mental health and wellbeing, for both pupils and staff. The school's knowledge and understanding of its pupils is very good and provides effective support when required.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To further develop the language for spiritual development in order to provide greater opportunities for personal prayer and reflection.</li> <li>To ensure that pupils have further opportunities to broaden their experiences of delivering collective worship so that they have a greater understanding of what worship looks like in other settings.</li> <li>Further develop opportunities for pupils to explore diversity within other communities, so that pupils' have opportunity to broaden their experiences.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

The school's vision and associated values, underpinned by Corinthians 16:14, can be seen throughout school life. Leaders, staff and pupils relate 'let all that you do be done in love' to their life both in and out of school, and this motivates them to be the best that they can be at all times. Consequently, St Barnabas is a school where everyone flourishes, even through times of adversity. The aspirational vision, along with the engaging curriculum, prepare pupils for actively contributing to society in the future. Displays around school remind everyone of the centrality of the vision. St Barnabas is part of the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT) and the school's vision is supported and encouraged by the trust's senior leadership. The school's close relationship with both the trust and the diocese results in a clear strategic direction as a church school. Each day starts with an act of collective worship and this focus on 'being together', allowing everyone to feel confident and safe in their faith, sets the tone for rest of the day.

The vision is lived out day-to-day through its associated values of respect, generosity, love, thankfulness, honesty and courage. Leaders at all levels apply these values in everyday life, both in school and beyond. These Christian values are made relevant for pupils and staff through key Bible verses and stories, impacting strongly on the life of the school. Pupils talk about how these values help them to know how they should live their life. Year 7 leaders talk about how these values are important, how they try to live their life through them as they know they are 'important role models' for the younger children. Even the youngest pupils can confidently share their understanding of the current value of respect, and this is something which was repeated by parents.

Leaders use the vision to shape and further develop the curriculum, which raises aspirations and builds attitudes such as resilience. Children talk about 'never giving up' and 'you learn when you get things wrong'. This results in pupils showing a love of learning, something which was encapsulated by one pupil who, when describing her favourite lesson in school, German, used the word 'wunderbar!'. The result of this is that progress is good across most groups in school. This is reflected in the most recent published data where in many areas progress was above average. Questioning across the curriculum is deepening pupils' reflection and thinking, giving them opportunities to further question challenging topics. Whilst staff and pupils have opportunities for reflection and to further explore their spirituality, the language associated with spiritual development is an area for future consideration. The vision enabling everyone to do what they do in love drives the commitment to professional development. With support from DoWMAT and the Diocese, staff have received training to ensure their knowledge is updated, supporting them to flourish personally. The local area board (LAB) play an important role in school and are moving more towards 'being involved' rather than 'being informed'. This is evidenced by more regular visits to school and challenges and suggestions being taken into account and acted upon.

'Let all that you do be done in love' greatly impacts attitudes to learning and behaviour across the school. These are exemplary. Pupils treat each other with respect, offering support and friendship when required. Pupils are delightful and a real credit to the school. Their behaviours and words reflect their values and show how important the biblical roots of the school's vision are, that all they do is done in love, 'people help us because they love us, and we help them because we love them,' is how one child described it. Older pupils show



consideration and care for those in younger years and this is something that parents speak highly of, one commenting that 'my child was really helped by Year 7 children when she was in Year 1 and was feeling anxious about playtimes'. Wellbeing and mental health are strongly supported throughout school. A new nurture room and wellbeing team have already supported a number of pupils and adults. During lockdown, staff made many visits to vulnerable families, and this has helped with those relationships now school is back. Families have been more understanding of the nurture provision and have accessed it because of those relationships forged during lockdown.

Collective worship is at the heart of school life and is an important part of the school day. It is supported well by members of St Barnabas Church, and pupils speak lovingly of the members of the church who share worship with them. The word of God is explored and brought to life in a way which is relevant for all. Calls to worship and the lighting of candles support pupils' understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pupils also play an important role in worship; the 'pupil ministry' is made up of pupils from Key Stage 3, who receive training as worship leaders, and support the planning, delivery and evaluation of worship. 'Big questions' are explored through worship and pupils speak of how worship 'makes them think about things in different ways'. It inspires them to make a difference in serving their local community, for example, supporting the local foodbank. Pupils talk about how sometimes life 'isn't fair' for some people and how they can help, for example by writing letters to important people to make change. Parents spoke of how it helped the children to make sense of the world, especially when dealing with loss, and how questions considered in worship are discussed by the children at home.

RE is led effectively by the enthusiastic and knowledgeable RE lead and subsequently has a high profile in school. She has benefitted from a range of training opportunities and these have been shared with staff, supporting them in order for them to have a love of teaching RE. Pupils develop enquiry skills and address big questions through a balanced and well-planned RE curriculum. In addition to their learning about Christianity, pupils gain a good understanding Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism. Pupils flourish in RE because they are provided with a safe learning environment in which to explore the 'big questions'. The recent introduction of 'I wonder...' questions, which encourages children to question topics starting with, for example, 'I wonder what would happen if...', and knowledge organisers further enables pupils to flourish. Pupils have a good recall of their learning and are eager to share it, one parent commenting how her child had written their own story based on Adam and Eve after being inspired by it in school.

The inspirational headteacher and school team, supported fully by their vision 'let all that you do be done in love', are ensuring that everyone connected to St Barnabas has the opportunity to flourish, with one parent saying 'the values they have through school will live with them when they have left'.



Information			
School	St Barnabas Church of England VC First and Middle School, Pershore	Inspection date	12 October 2022
URN	144334	VC/VA/ Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Worcester	Pupils on roll	208
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT)		
	Elizabeth Whetham		
Chair of Governors	Quintin Speers		
Inspector	David Dunn	No.	2105