

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

## St Mary's Church of England Primary School

### Vision

"Be Courageous, be strong. Do everything in Love" 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14. Our school vision encourages us to look towards what is the right action and always act in love and compassion. We use this advice in all situations, every day. We show that we act in love by the way that we teach, the way decisions are made, the way we speak and act towards each other, the care and ambition we have for one another. We show our love for the wider community by sharing in acts of worship, selfless action (charity) and other expressions of Christian togetherness.

### Strengths

- The Christian vision and associated values is evident in all aspects of school life. As a result, pupils develop as loving and caring individuals who speak and act with compassion and kindness.
- The vision has a positive influence on curriculum design and implementation. Careful planning and support ensure that pupils, including those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, flourish.
- Good mental health and wellbeing are a school priority. Quality provision enables pupils to recognise and regulate their emotions and behaviour.
- Moments of awe and wonder abound in the curriculum and in the school environment. Pupils value moments of quiet and reflection during collective worship and throughout the school day. These provide adults and pupils with opportunities to flourish spiritually.
- School leaders have developed a carefully considered curriculum for religious education (RE). Consequently, pupils grow in their knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews.

### Development Points

- To enable pupils to develop a knowledge of Christianity as a worldwide faith. This will enable them to appreciate the diversity of Christian belief and practice in this country and beyond.
- To support the local governing committee in their understanding of the school's approach to spirituality. This is so that they robustly hold leaders to account in this area of school life.



## Inspection Findings

At St Mary's leaders are enabled by the embedded and biblically rooted Christian vision. It guides decisions and actions. It resonates with the vision of the Rise multi-academy trust (MAT) which envisages the flourishing and succeeding of pupils and adults. The trust, diocese and local governing committee work closely with school leaders. Consequently, the vision is rigorously and robustly applied, monitored and evaluated. Their work in developing the Christian distinctiveness of the school is evident in daily interactions between staff and pupils. The vision is holistic, promoting kindness, empathy and a love of learning. It enables pupils to grow academically, socially and emotionally. They know what it means to serve others, be kind, respectful, thankful, honest and to persevere. They talk about what these mean and give examples of how they have lived out these values in their everyday life. For example, listening to others in times of need.

The curriculum is broad and courageous. The school's vision and values are evident in all subjects where treating others well, alongside justice, are consistent themes. In history, for example, pupils' study inspirational Christian figures from the past. In Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) they consider the importance of community service, respect and empathy. Spirituality is embedded throughout the curriculum. Pupils and staff are clear as to what spirituality means to them. However, the local governing committee's understanding of the school's approach is less well developed. Pupils know that spirituality means being connected to something bigger than themselves. They talk enthusiastically how the concept of a mirror allows them to reflect inwardly. They describe looking through windows and doors to experience the rich diversity of the world around them. This allows pupils to appreciate awe and wonder moments, which support their spiritual flourishing. Involvement in a variety of extra-curricular activities including sport, music and dancing enrich the lives of pupils.

St Mary's is an inclusive school. Staff are acutely aware of their intake's profile, particularly those that come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Christian vision is lived out daily, so that pupils are treated well as individuals. The safe and nurturing environment ensures that they feel confident, valued and loved. Pupils are therefore secure in their knowledge that there is a consistent interest in their lives. Leaders proactively identify those who require additional support. Interventions are numerous and bespoke to individual needs. Staff expertise ensures that provision is effective. They work with a wide range of agencies to access specialist support and additional funding. The consequence of this proactive approach is that no pupil goes without, and that they are treated equitably. Parents appreciate the discreet, personalised care and support that they and their children receive. They are highly supportive of the school. There are well-established routines, so pupils know what acceptable behaviour is and what is not. Conversations regarding poor behaviour are framed within Christian values. Pupils therefore reflect upon how their actions might have been, for example, unkind. Staff serve as inspirational role models, reinforcing the school's Christian values. This creates a learning environment in which all voices are listened to, allowing pupils to learn, speak and be heard.

Rich, engaging worship is pivotal to the daily life of this school. Without compulsion, it invites all to grow in understanding, appreciation and engagement with Christianity as a living faith. Pupils gather to worship and leave, in an atmosphere of thoughtfulness. They are encouraged to take part including lighting a candle, reading Bible stories, singing and sharing reflections. These experiences enhance pupils' capacity to reflect on their own beliefs. As a result, they flourish spiritually. Time is given for pupils to consider moral and ethical issues. They, therefore, think about their own beliefs in relation to others. Within collective worship the school's use of news from world events encourages pupils to engage with current issues. Older pupils welcome serving the community as eco-warriors, young governors, play and collective worship leads. They are courageous in their desire to make a difference in these leadership roles and in doing so become active agents of change. The relationship with the local church is strong. Church members are invited to celebrate Easter in school. The whole school attend church services at Christmas and the leavers' service. In this service year 6 pupils reflect on the



school's values and how their actions and deeds impact others. This is something they take with them into secondary school.

The importance of kindness and respect are central to the schools' Christian vision. Policies and daily interactions reflect this. Adults and pupils know that they are valued and respected. Caring for mental health and wellbeing of the school community is a priority. Counselling is offered to pupils with emotional needs and those who have been subject to life-changing experiences. For example, during times of family bereavement. Pupils use prayer spaces, reflection areas and sensory equipment within and out of classrooms. This provides the opportunity for moments of prayer, tranquility and quiet reflection, supporting their personal journeys of spiritual growth. A worry box allows them to confidentially report troubles. Staff respond by acting to resolve differences between pupils and support them when needed. Pupil playtime is joyful and inclusive. When pupils see someone alone, they actively seek them to join their group. Staff offer 'happy lunchtimes' which engage pupils in fun and absorbing activities. Staff are well supported by leaders and the trust. They are appreciative of the trust's curriculum resources which has reduced their workload. They feel part of a family at St Mary's in which they are valued. This has a positive impact upon staff morale. Leaders and staff benefit from trust training and the opportunity to share ideas with colleagues within school and across the trust. This enables them to grow successfully as professionals.

The school's RE curriculum has been carefully chosen to align with the school's vision. Learning therefore centres upon love and compassion. RE is given a high priority. Strong RE leadership ensures planning is appropriately sequenced, well-balanced and challenging. Pupils are enthusiastic about RE and confidently articulate what they have learned. They eagerly recount their learning and recall religious stories and how these illustrate the school's values. In lessons pupils engage in discussion and respond in creative ways. This enables them to make use of their enquiry skills and develop personal responses. Although pupils know about a range of religions and world views, their knowledge of Christianity as a worldwide faith is limited. Monitoring by leaders is effective. It results in refined and adapted use of academy trust resources to best suit the needs of learners at St Mary's. This enables pupils to flourish in RE.

## Information

Address	Brampton Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 0NA		
Date	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September, 2024	URN	139194
Type of school	Primary	No. of pupils	189
Diocese	Leicester		
MAT/Federation	Rise Multi-Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Laura Oakes		
Acting chair of the local governing committee	Julia Pointon		
Chair of the board of the Rise Multi-Academy Trust	Stephen Adshead		
Inspector	Helen Birch		