

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

<b>All Saints' Church of England First School</b>			
Address	Cheadle Road, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 5QY		
Date of inspection	28 November 2019	Status of school	Academy inspected as VA The Talentum Learning Trust
Diocese	Lichfield	URN	146612

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>Additional Judgements</b>	<b>The impact of collective worship</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<b>The effectiveness of religious education (RE)</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

## School context

All Saints is a first school with 210 pupils on roll and 36 in the nursery. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages. The school became an academy in April 2019 and joined the Talentum Learning Trust.

## The school's Christian vision

All Saints' Church of England First School is a loving family where everyone is inspired to be the best they can be in order to flourish as children of God. We aim to nurture all those who learn and work in our school, and instil Christian values through life's journey.

*'God has given each of you a gift. Use it to help each other.'* 1 Peter 4:10

Be the Best we can be.

*'Whatever work you do, do your best.'* Ecclesiastes 9:10

## Key findings

- Exceptional Christian leadership ensures that this school's core Christian values are integral and embodied in everyone and everything. This is notably lived out by the headteacher and by the religious education (RE) subject leader.
- All Saints' young pupils naturally and enthusiastically articulate the detail of the Christian story. They have a deep knowledge and understanding of key Anglican traditions and beliefs at an age-appropriate level.
- Pupils are empowered to make a personal difference at an age-appropriate level and use their values in action because they genuinely care for the wellbeing of others.
- The strong partnership between church and school is making a real difference to the lives of pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.
- The exemplary Christian ethos of inclusion is transforming the individual lives of pupils and their families as well as staff, so all flourish.

### **Areas for development**


- Deepen the whole school community's age-appropriate understanding of the theological underpinning of their vision and values so all can relate this to biblical teaching.
- Extend pupils' involvement in the planning and evaluation of collective worship to enrich their spiritual development.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

### **Inspection findings**

All Saints' is a genuinely warm and welcoming Christian community where everyone is valued, supported and loved. One member of staff explained, 'We encourage and guide as a family would. There is a heart for aspiration so that collectively and individually we flourish. No one is left behind.' This is because the school's vision and values are deeply embedded and integral to daily life for pupils and adults alike. The nurturing culture enables every child and adult to succeed, within an environment rooted in biblical teaching. A giant creative wall display boldly reminds everyone of key Bible stories which exemplify the school's chosen values. Such values are making a difference, alongside two key Bible verses exhorting doing the best work possible, using God's unique gifts to help one another. Enabling the whole community to deeply explain the biblical underpinning of the school vision is ongoing. The exceptional leadership demonstrated by the headteacher and the RE subject leader empowers the staff and children to model the vision and values naturally and spontaneously. This extends to the very positive partnerships which exist with the diocese, the trust and the schools in the local area. All Saints' is very much a beacon school, supporting others on their spiritual journeys. This includes community schools within the trust, where support in RE, especially the teaching of Christianity, is much valued. Governors challenge and support, effectively carrying out their monitoring roles.

Naturally inquisitive young pupils grow in confidence at All Saints' because enriching curriculum activities, such as Forest School, are offered. Even those who sometimes find learning hard know the importance of perseverance and to 'keep on pushing yourself until you achieve'. This is because spiritual development and wellbeing are at the centre of what the pupils do. The school's vision and values are an integral part of their progress. Pupils strive to be the best they can be so all flourish and make very good progress from their starting points. Staff know pupils exceptionally well and nurture the strengths they have, recognising that pupils learn in different ways. Staff observe resilience within pupils and dispel any barriers which hinder progress. The pupils themselves learn to emulate others and have a great deal to offer, being the best they can be. Pupils are affirmed for using their gifts to help one another as kindness is valued more than academic achievement. This means that pupils grow as people and make a positive difference in the community. They leave with the wider understanding that living out Christian values is what really matters.

Pupils' ability to be agents of change in their community begins close to home, supporting causes which help research into diseases suffered by families and friends. Pupils have a voice through the school council, which is committed to recycling and revamping the nat  area. They actively support the local foodbank, especially at Harvest time. They enjoy what they do for one another, within a positive spirit of wellbeing, so they and others flourish. This stems from a genuine love and care in this family environment where everyone is supported to be the best they can be. Whilst the school has enjoyed a link with a school in Kenya, it is continuing to widen pupils' horizons beyond Leek by developing links with Dubai. This is in its early stages.

Excellent relationships at all levels are praised by staff as the glue which holds them all together. Pupils and parents are very happy and staff view school as a 'home from home'. The whole community strives to do their best in all aspects of their lives. This is underpinned by their vision and resonates with sharing their life-long values with others. Staff work collaboratively together in development teams in this family setting. Everyone belongs and all matter, with wellbeing prioritised so everyone flourishes at All Saints.

Collective worship at All Saints' is seen as a place of learning, where everybody wants to be. All worship, including class worship, affirms the school's vision and values which are pertinent to each child, all taking something from the messages given. Prayer and reflection are integral to daily worship and subsequent action. One pupil shared when a candle is lit in reflection time, 'I can feel God talking to me'. Firm beliefs make a difference. Some pupils comment after worship that they have thought deeply about the theme and announce what they have done today as a result. Others spontaneously find a three leafed branch outside which reminds them of the symbol of the Holy Trinity. The effects of worship are seen in the home. Following the re-enactment of baptism by their vicar, one pupil urgently wanted to baptise a doll. This is because worship clearly resonates with them and they reflect and share their learning. Excellent links with the church enable pupils and their families to enjoy using 'our church' for worship. Pupils made poppies to celebrate the fallen at Remembrance-tide. A hallmark of All Saints is a regular Eucharist service, which actively involves pupils who explain the symbolism of bread and wine very well. The link between church and school as well as the importance of personal prayer are noteworthy. Extending pupils' engagement in leading and evaluating collective worship is ongoing.

Creative RE is giving pupils a language to explain difficult concepts and beliefs with a maturity beyond their years. For example, these young pupils readily and enthusiastically explain what incarnation means to them in their own words. All Saints' was a pilot school for the 'Understanding Christianity' resource, which is bringing confidence to pupils and staff alike. Pupils have a detailed knowledge of the major saints, after whom their classes are named. Pupils also contribute that the Lord's Prayer helps them to think about other people in the world who share the same Christian belief. A five year old pupil affirmed that God is always by his side. Parents are amazed by their children's awareness of God at such an early age. Pupils speak passionately about Bible stories which help them to live their lives. For example, they cite the Lost Coin as an encouragement to persevere and praise the kindness of those who celebrated what was lost was found. Pupils show respect for diversity and difference and enjoy learning about Hinduism and Islam, which helps them understand other people, including those beyond their community.

The final word rests with a member of staff. They said, 'All Saints' is a caring, nurturing environment where children are actively encouraged to be the best they can be,' They achieve this by 'learning in a Christian environment as children of God.'



### **The effectiveness of RE is Excellent**

The quality of teaching and learning is consistently good and often excellent. Termly monitoring by the dedicated and committed RE subject leader is accurate and ensures RE embeds the school's values, within a shared understanding of spirituality. Progress for all groups of pupils is excellent. All pupils flourish academically in RE.

Headteacher

Elizabeth Allbutt

Inspector's name and number	Lizzie McWhirter 244
-----------------------------	----------------------