

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Primary School

Vision

All different, all equal, all growing together.

'Use your God-given talents to serve others' 1 Peter 4:10

The school's vision is rooted in Christian service. We believe that each of us whether we are a staff member, a child, a parent, a governor, a visitor or friend of the school has been given talents by God. These skills and talents have been gifted to us to enable us to support and serve each other.

St John's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- St John's is a school with a deeply embedded Christian vision that is lived out daily. It guides decisions taken by leaders and creates an environment of trust and support, where pupils and adults flourish.
- The school's curriculum is deeply rooted in its Christian vision and is intentionally inclusive. This shapes the learning experience offered and as a result, pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), thrive.
- Leaders' actions create a culture which prioritises wellbeing and strongly reflects the vision. Pupils and adults are cared for and nurtured to ensure that they have every opportunity to grow personally and professionally.
- Rooted in the Christian vision, pupils have a strong understanding of justice. Through worship and the curriculum, pupils understand fairness and talk confidently about the importance of standing up for others.
- Worship is inclusive, inspirational and thoughtfully reflects the school's Christian vision and values. It allows pupils of different beliefs and views to engage meaningfully. In doing so, it supports their spiritual growth.

Development Points

- Develop and implement an effective and consistent approach to assessment in religious education (RE) across the school. This is to ensure that leaders have a clear understanding of pupils' progress over time.
- Plan and embed intentional opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually across the curriculum. This is to enhance the way the curriculum and wider experiences enable them to flourish spiritually.
- Strengthen the monitoring of collective worship so that leaders clearly understand its impact on the spiritual growth of pupils and adults.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders ensure that equality, service and growth are central to the school's work. Core Christian values act as strong roots, nurturing pupils and adults to grow and flourish. Leaders and staff foster a culture where diversity is celebrated and pupils are valued and loved, regardless of personal belief or views. Great care is taken to ensure that pupils and adults are treated with dignity and respect. Guided by Jesus' example of servant leadership, pupils and adults are encouraged to grow through service. They use their gifts and talents, which some speak of as coming from God, to support others to flourish. In this way, the school's vision is lived out daily. Governors serve the school community by keeping the vision at the heart of strategic decisions. For example, allocating funds to create additional provision that meets the needs of pupils with SEND. Leaders serve staff by prioritising wellbeing. As a result, staff feel valued and supported in their roles and are able to develop professionally and personally. In this way, the St John's community flourish together.

Vision and Curriculum

The vision shapes the curriculum by placing inclusion, service and growth at its heart. This results in an ambitious curriculum that reflects and responds to the needs of the community it serves. Through carefully chosen content and inspiring enrichment activities, pupils are nourished with rich experiences that broaden their horizons. Spirituality is expressed through the concepts of encounter, reflection and transformation. Some curriculum experiences reflect this approach and provide moments of awe and wonder that cultivate pupils' spiritual growth. However, planned opportunities for spiritual development are not embedded across the curriculum. As a result, pupils' opportunities to explore and engage with the spiritual dimension of life are limited. Highly inclusive practice reflects the vision in action. Leaders are unwavering in their commitment to removing barriers to learning for pupils with SEND and those deemed to be vulnerable. Through a nurturing approach, pupils develop confidence, resilience and experience success. As a result, they flourish academically and personally as they grow together in a supportive environment.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is shaped by the school's Christian vision. Leaders demonstrate a deep commitment to ensuring that worship is inclusive. This results in a worship experience which is inspiring and uniting. A familiar structure creates a safe space for pupils, including those with SEND, to engage comfortably at their own level. Prayers are invitational and pupils and adults respond respectfully in a way appropriate to their own worldview. Bible stories support pupils in their understanding of Christianity and Christian values. The exploration of these values in daily contexts deepens pupils' understanding and makes worship relevant to pupils of faith and none. However, leaders are not clear of the impact that worship has on the spiritual development of pupils as there is no formal evaluation. Worship in church provides a welcoming environment for parents of all faiths. They value the moments of stillness and reflection that support their spiritual development. As a result, pupils and adults grow together spiritually and learn how, through service, they can help others to grow too.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Rooted in service and equality, the school's Christian vision establishes a culture where justice is central to daily life. This shapes how the community grows together. Through topics such as environmental sustainability and modern slavery, pupils reflect on ethical issues and learn to recognise unfairness. The school's value of justice underpins its work and pupils are encouraged to have the courage to speak out. This strengthens their understanding of personal and shared responsibility within the community. The exploration of the value of service deepens this further, as pupils learn how to use their personal gifts to help others grow. As a result, they demonstrate a well-developed understanding of justice and apply this in daily interactions. For example, they articulate how some pupils may need additional resources such as fidget toys to help with concentration. The partnership with St John's church further enriches this culture. Community outreach and shared initiatives, such



as contributing to the food bank, reinforce the value of service and justice. This strengthens the Christian distinctiveness as the school and church community grow together.

Religious Education

Leaders recognise the importance of RE in helping pupils to flourish. Careful thought has gone into designing a curriculum that reflects the school community and is relevant to pupils. Well-sequenced units provide rich learning experiences and enable pupils to explore a range of religions and worldviews, including Christianity. As a result, pupils talk with confidence about key features of religions and have a developing understanding of the diversity of faith. Pupils respond thoughtfully to big questions and confidently connect learning to school values and their own beliefs. For example, pupils accurately explain how zakat shapes the way many Muslims choose to give to others. They can link this to the school value of service.

Knowledgeable and enthusiastic leaders provide high-quality training and support for staff. As a result, RE lessons are dynamic and well-paced and include a wide range of stimulating activities. Staff subject knowledge is strong. They confidently challenge pupils' misconceptions and skilfully make meaningful links with other subjects. This leads to a greater understanding of challenging ideas. Retrieval strategies are built into lessons and support pupils in retaining key knowledge. Question frames are used to shape pupils' reflections and lead to thoughtful responses to big questions. As a result, RE supports the school's approach to spiritual development. Pupils use theological vocabulary accurately during discussions and demonstrate a deep understanding of core concepts. However, leaders are not clear about pupils' progress in RE because current assessments do not fully reflect learning.

Vision and School Culture

The clear and consistent message 'treat others as you like to be treated' supports the school community to live together well. An understanding of the importance of mutual respect guides pupils and adults, fostering strong relationships. Pupils consider the feelings of others when facing challenges and this creates a culture of tolerance and forgiveness. As a result, relationships are strong and respectful behaviour is evident throughout the school. Pupils actively contribute to school life through leadership roles such as school council. In this way, they feel heard, valued and understood. Older pupils take pride in supporting younger children and those with SEND. They reflect on how these positions of trust enhance their self-esteem and support their personal growth through service towards others. Leaders are relentless in their drive to ensure that those who may be deemed vulnerable receive timely support. Safe spaces such as the nurture den, along with tailored pastoral interventions, support pupils' personal growth. Parents value the help they receive to promote their wellbeing, especially during times of challenge. For example, the school supports the families of SEND pupils through a dedicated support group. This provides parents with guidance, encouragement and a network of shared understanding. In this way, the vision drives the school's approach to wellbeing, nurturing mental health, and ensuring members of the community thrive.

Information

Address	Stratford Road, Sparkhill, West Midlands, B11 4EA		
Date	03 February 2026	URN	139173
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	412
Diocese	Birmingham		
SAT	St John's Church of England Primary School		
Headteacher	Naomi Hedges		
Chair of Governors	Des Ricketts		
Inspector	Marcia Harris		