

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Chad's Church of England First School and Nursery, Pattingham	
Address	Westbeech Road, Pattingham, WV6 7AQ
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent

School's vision
<p>We believe that every member of our school community is unique, created in God's image, and precious to Him. Our foundation for living and learning are the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The message of God's love and the values of joy, peace, hope, wisdom, dignity and community are at the heart of school life at St Chad's enabling us to inspire confident learners, who will thrive in an ever changing world.</p> <p>Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old they will not depart from it. Adapted from Proverbs 22:6</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School leaders have a profound understanding of how a distinctively Christian vision can be embedded into every aspect of school life so that all members of the school are consistently nurtured and flourish. • Governance at partnership and local level is exemplary in supporting and delivering the distinctive Christian vision. Thorough and rigorous monitoring and evaluation has real impact in driving improvement and strategic direction at this forward thinking school. • The vision for the school as a loving family results in a community which celebrates diversity and values each individual as precious. Consequently, pupils love school and enjoy learning, St Chads is changing lives. • Collective worship is vibrant, joyful and uplifting and at the heart of school life. It contributes deeply to the spiritual development of adults and pupils. • Religious and worldviews education (RE) is a particularly excellent feature of the school. The passion and skill of the RE lead is inspirational and as a result, pupils have a depth of theological understanding and proficiency which gives them exceptional confidence and knowledge of world faiths.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend further the school's role as a leader of church school education in order to promote excellence across the partnership, the diocese and beyond.

Inspection findings

St Chad's school is excellent because of its solid Christian foundations. Christian teaching and the examples of Jesus inspire adults and pupils. All stakeholders are hugely proud of their school. United by their vision, they strive to enrich the lives of everyone, enabling them to flourish within an aspirational, nurturing, and loving learning community. Proverbs 22:6 is living and breathing throughout the whole school community. Pupils are given the best possible foundations they need at St Chad's to be well equipped for their future.

St Chad's is a member of the South Staffordshire Learning Partnership of five schools. The headteacher leads on Christian distinctiveness across the partnership. This impacts positively on church schools and on schools that are not church schools. The head also impacts on the progress in other church schools in the diocese by supporting, guiding and sharing excellent practice. Therefore, St Chad's make an immense difference to the lives of its own community and those further afield. Governors know the school extremely well. Their areas of expertise are utilised to enhance the life of the school as a church school. Rigorous self-evaluation is built into the school improvement cycle and contributes effectively to strategic planning. Pupils have a powerful voice and platform to convey their ideas and concerns. In this way the whole community is together living, learning and loving as one body.

The inclusivity of the Christian vision is seen through its impact on the life of the adults in school, staff retention is high. Staff cherish the opportunities they are given. A range of mutually beneficial partnerships enrich the life of the school family. The school actively works with the diocese and values this strong relationship. The strength of the partnership with the church is evident in the way valuable support has continued, despite there currently being no permanent vicar. The headteacher, a practising Christian is a member of the congregation at the church and leads family services to which many of the St Chad's families attend. She also writes regular articles for the parish magazine. The church is truly an extension of school and pupils attend for key Christian festivals as well as for aspects of their learning.

A powerful sense of mutual trust and nurture characterises the school. Pupils conduct themselves with respect for each other. The way everyone is valued contributes to very high standards of behaviour. In this safe and secure learning environment, all pupils including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and pupils considered to be disadvantaged are thriving. Life at St. Chad's has lasting impact. At the local middle school, pupils from St Chads are said to stand out as resilient, grounded, well-mannered pupils. They take on important leadership roles such as head boy and girl.

A carefully considered broad and balanced curriculum recognises the need for pupils to be 'forward looking' in preparation to be ready for a wider world. Spirituality and character education are skilfully woven through the curriculum. In living out the Christian vision, there are a wealth of clubs and extra-curricular opportunities which are available for all pupils. The school has a well-developed understanding of and approach to spiritual growth. It is clearly and consistently defined in policy and practice. Extremely effective opportunities are mapped out, enabling pupils to ask big questions and explore spiritual and ethical issues. Further spontaneous opportunities create rich spiritual experiences within a culture of deep reflection. Pupils value spending time in both the reflection space near the school hall and in each classroom. Even the very youngest children in nursery and reception take time to pause and reflect through the day. This has a profound impact on their mental health and spiritual growth.

The school ensures that pupils are well equipped to be agents of change. Pupils engage in

a commendable range of fundraising, charitable partnerships and social action projects. For example, the eco-friendly plastic greenhouse which was erected as part of the International Schools Award. They challenge poverty at a local, national and international level. This is seen through their work with a link school in Kenya. In pursuit of social justice and equality they have funded the renovation of a reception classroom and provided tables, chairs and pencils. This has transformed pupils understanding of being part of the wider church family, differences in culture and deprivation. They have learnt from the children of Kenya who despite having so few possessions are full of happiness and pupils at St Chad's are also enthused by the vibrancy of worship in Kenya. Pupils are relentless in their compassion to work together for God's world. Reception pupils have pledged to collect all the school's plastic milk bottles and put them in the recycling bins. Pupils at St Chad's make a difference. They make their voices heard.

Worship is vibrant, joyful and uplifting. It is at the heart of school life and loved by all. Its importance is shown through everyone being altogether for worship every day. Each member of staff leads for a week at a time. This enables each worship to connect with and build on the last. This has a powerful and lasting impact on the lives of all. Pupils bubble with enthusiasm when talking about the difference worship makes and this spills into home life. Parents explain how pupils go home and ask the big questions of life. Prayer is seen as a natural way of sharing ideas with God which many pupils found help in solving problems. Leadership and evaluation of worship is highly effective.

Pupils learn exceptionally well in Religious and Worldviews education (RE) because the curriculum excites and promotes enquiry and deep thinking. Pupils' progress is rapid. RE is led and taught with insight, great skill and expertise. A recent innovation, developed in partnership with the diocese has incorporated secular worldviews into the curriculum. This ensures RE is relevant. RE is inspiring pupils in line with the vision enabling them to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world. Pupils develop an extensive vocabulary as they move through school. They express their thinking confidently, making connections between a range of beliefs and practices and their own lives. Their learning goes beyond the expectations for pupils in a first school setting. A rigorous and supportive programme of monitoring and evaluation secures and celebrates strong practice.

Information			
School	St Chad's Church of England First School and Nursery, Pattingham	Inspection date	9 February 2023
URN	124269	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	151
Headteacher	Sarah Yeomans		
Chair of Governors	Jess Shulman		
Inspector	Kerry Geddis	No.	955