



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

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Ilkeston	
Address	Station Road, Stanley, Ilkeston, DE7 6FB
School vision	
We inspire all children to flourish by sharing their individual light during a life of fullness within God's love of all.	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school's theologically rooted Christian vision is the foundation upon which the school has built its practice. Leaders make constant reference to vision and associated Christian values. They use it to direct their thinking and to review the impact of their work. It is lived by the pupils in their daily school experience.</li> <li>• The school context drives curriculum decisions, enabling and maintaining pupils' interests through appropriate challenge and support. Pupils receive life affirming opportunities through an ambitious, wise and sensitive curriculum. Religious education (RE) is enabling pupils to have a strong and coherent understanding of Christianity.</li> <li>• Collective worship is at the heart of school life, bringing a profound sense of wholeness to the entire community. Pupils are actively engaged in the preparation and delivery of collective worship.</li> <li>• A deeply loving, inclusive culture enables everyone to belong and flourish. Differences are respected and celebrated, enabling personal confidence and a sense of wellbeing to thrive.</li> <li>• Leaders are quick to support emerging challenges within this community. They are significant role models who consistently demonstrate compassion for families.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a culture whereby pupils are empowered so that they become independent agents for social action.</li> <li>• Ensure that the pupils' knowledge of world faiths develops so that it is increasingly secure.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>Leaders ensure that the theologically rooted Christian vision and associated values direct the school's actions, enabling all to flourish. Along with the vision, the pupils voice is central to the school's decision making process. Pupils relish being consulted and know that their ideas and opinions count. Consequently, their hopes and aspirations influence the school's direction.</p> <p>St Andrew's is a distinctively inclusive school where everyone contributes with confidence. Pupils and adults know that differences are respected, cherished and celebrated. This inspires pupils to be the best that they can be, knowing they 'are striving for progress not perfection'. They explain how the school's distinctive Christian values help them to be kind and considerate to their friends. Currently, with no vicar in position at St Andrew's church, leaders have invited clergy from further afield. They are very visible in school. They are no longer considered visiting but are clearly integral to school life, being part of the school family. Their on going contribution to worship, spiritual growth and pastoral support is highly valued.</p>	

Leaders enable significant partnerships to further enhance how all flourish. Strong collaboration with the diocese enables welcome support and challenge to further develop achievements. The school benefits from working closely with other similar schools, sharing and receiving expertise. Pupils and adults attend St Andrew's church for major Christian festivals where they meet local Christians in worship. These adults reinforce the school's distinctively Christian vision and associated values.

The curriculum design responds to emerging opportunities and enables all to flourish, including the more vulnerable. As pupils' needs evolve the curriculum mirrors that need and so it consistently functions as a responsive framework for learning. Building upon the vision, staff adapt learning opportunities to ensure that each pupil accesses learning so that all flourish. Pupils regard learning as an adventure, where mistakes are helpful as a step towards new knowledge. They are aware that through learning they enable their light to shine. The popular extra curricular activities build bridges between school and home. This includes traditional crafts, enabling families to support and encourage pupils in their extended learning.

Collective worship is invitational and is much loved. It creates a sense of belonging. All are invited to reflect and pray, coming together as a Church school family. Charismatic clergy ignite a contagious passion for worship. Its influence energises, enriches and is lived. Enthusiastic singing demonstrates how precious this time together is. Worship is varied and inspirational. Pupils plan, lead and engage with worship, further enabling the whole school to be spiritually uplifted. Collective worship creates a ribbon that runs through the whole school experience. It extends beyond school and into family life. Parents appreciate how prayers used at school have been adopted at home, further cementing the bond that exists within this community. Collective worship is interactive. On the day of the inspection pupils reflected upon the parable of the sower. Upon leaving collective worship they were invited to collect seeds with the choice to sow them, as per the parable.

Spiritual development is integral to the life of the school, both within and beyond the curriculum. There is a strong shared understanding between pupils and adults about how spirituality enhances lives. Pupils deeply discuss thoughts and grasp moments of awe and wonder. Adults enable curiosity to thrive and discussions about spiritual experiences are encouraged and valued. The tranquil eco garden provides opportunity to reflect upon God's beautiful world. It is used by pupils and staff as a quiet place to be. The shared understanding of spirituality is deeply embedded. Adults are frequently inspired by the pupils' reflections, finding themselves moved by the pupils' insights.

By enabling each person's light to shine leaders ensure a culture whereby everyone is treated well. Through their secure knowledge of families leaders recognise need and are relentless in providing support and signposting help. Pupil behaviour is exemplary. Staff are quick to recognise pupils' spontaneous acts of kindness. The care that this community shares for each other is palpable, there is a deep awareness of God's love for all. Every opportunity is taken to celebrate achievement and to invest in each other's interests. This includes both pupils and adults. During the weekly celebration assembly pupils delight in hearing about adults continuing to strive to achieve through their personal interests. As a result, staff positively demonstrate how learning continues throughout their lives. This inspires pupils to achieve their own goals.

Leaders are adept at reaching out to those who have specific challenging needs. This goes beyond the school family, into the local community. Consequently, the school is the hub of the village. The pupils are able to see at first hand how Christian love is quick to respond with compassion and practical support. Furthermore, initially introduced through the diocese, St Andrew's school actively supports a school in India with practical help. Pupils observe how their fund raising enables pupils abroad to flourish. There is a strong connection between the two schools. Staff have visited to share their expertise. Pupils refer to the school in Dum Dum as their sister school. Pupils have been given the opportunity to lead with roles such as pupil voice and wellbeing directors. This is done with responsibility, vigour and a keenness to innovate. However, wider

opportunities to transform this enthusiasm into practical action are limited. This has meant that chances for child led social action have not been fully realised.

RE enables pupils to have a strong and coherent understanding of Christianity. Pupils have a thirst for knowledge and enjoy retelling bible stories and discussing their meaning. Pupils eagerly embrace the many opportunities they are given to explore life's big questions. As a result, they think deeply and are eager to question and challenge. They make links and ask questions resulting in personal beliefs and convictions being explored and developed. The regular use of a wow week, where the main focus of learning is RE, enables deeper learning. Whilst pupils study religions other than Christianity, their understanding of this content is less secure. Staff make good use of the training offered by the diocese. RE is planned sequentially using the locally agreed syllabus and the Understanding Christianity resource. RE meets the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.

Leaders enable this loving church school to flourish. Through their humble leadership they nurture and inspire everyone within a strongly inclusive school. Leaders foster a growing understanding that everyone matters, that all are loved by God. Classrooms are filled with laughter, with mutual respect and love for all. Pupils and adults know they are valued and that their individuality is encouraged to shine.

The inspection findings indicate that St Andrew's Church of England VC Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
School	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Ilkeston	Inspection date	19 September 2023
URN	112854	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Derby	Pupils on roll	86
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Elizabeth Stanley-Wainwright		
Chair of Governors/Trust Board	Elizabeth Jackson		
Inspector	Mark Millinson	No.	2121