



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

Woodcocks' Well Church of England Primary School	
Address	Church Street, Mow Cop, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3NQ
School vision	
<p>Discovering a 'world of wonder, empowered by God's Spirit.'</p> <p>So our children live "life in all its fulness" (John 10:10), we give them experiences to develop confidence, independence, resilience, passion and aspirations. By developing their character and understanding of God at work in the world, children will be able to make reflective, sound judgements; having a positive impact on our wider community and society by valuing all.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The clear Christian vision and values inspire a shared understanding of the school as a family. The vision is the driving force that enables pupils and adults to flourish in a supportive and loving community.</li> <li>• Wellbeing is a high priority for the school. Through the vision of valuing all, leaders create an extremely caring culture.</li> <li>• Collective worship unites the school community and reinforces an understanding of the school's Christian vision. A wide variety of worship activities provide opportunities for spiritual exploration and reflection.</li> <li>• The school is committed to serving its community. The whole staff team is effective in responding to the specific need of this locality. The Christian vision is instrumental in securing fruitful partnerships with local churches.</li> <li>• In religious education (RE), a carefully considered approach to assessment ensures all children are challenged. As a result, pupils learn well in lessons.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a shared understanding of spirituality and plan experiences that nurture spirituality within the curriculum and wider life of the school.</li> <li>• In tackling issues of justice, encourage pupils to express their views confidently. This is so that they engage actively as positive agents for change, nationally as well as globally.</li> <li>• Embed and extend opportunities in RE so that pupils understand Christianity as a diverse world faith.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	



The school's inclusive Christian vision, underpinned by a rich theological narrative, is at the heart of all aspects of school life. The vision, rooted in John 10:10, is fully embedded within, and treasured by, the whole school community. Committed leaders understand the needs of the local community: they develop relationships based on love, kindness and respect. The vision has established a culture where pupils succeed and develop as individuals. As a result, pupils grow in confidence and discover a 'world of wonder'. Staff explore the parable of the mustard seed effectively in communicating the vision to the school community. This enables all to understand the importance of faith in action. The school's values weave their way explicitly through all aspects of school life. Pupils and adults actively live out the fruits of the Spirit to support one another. They readily take opportunities to show love and self-control. Pupils recognise the values in their own lives and use them to make good choices. Governors' robust self-evaluation ensures that Church school life is continually developing. Staff and governors actively engage in relevant Church school training with the Diocese of Chester. This further strengthens their understanding of an effective Church school. As a result, the vision successfully drives school priorities, leading to fruitful school development.

The vision of discovering a 'world of wonder, empowered by God's Spirit', drives a curriculum that meets the needs of the pupils. The school's provision supports and fosters inclusive learning within a practical, relevant curriculum. The desire to develop confidence and independence is evident from the youngest to the oldest pupils. Staff maximise opportunities to utilise nature in learning and pupils speak keenly about their experiences in the Forest School programme. Through this natural environment, they recognise God at work in the world and respect His creation. The curriculum actively promotes personal development alongside academic achievement. Staff take care to support and nurture pupils, ensuring they thrive and access learning. Committed to faithfully serving the school, volunteers from local churches enrich the school's provision, which includes reading with pupils. Through a range of wider curriculum activities pupils develop confidence and grow in character. For example, in a creative art club, pupils thoughtfully reflect on God's creation. During a recent trip to Paris, a group of pupils meaningfully explored God's world further afield. Pupils' awareness of diversity is enhanced through a variety of educational resources used in curriculum areas, such as RE and literacy. As a result, pupils understand and appreciate the rich culture that exists beyond the school. Aspects of spirituality are explored through enquiry, enabling pupils to discover wonder in elements of the curriculum. However, a whole-school, shared understanding of spirituality is not yet developed and, therefore, not explicitly planned for across the curriculum.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is inclusive and invitational and reflects the school's Christian vision and values. It allows time for quiet reflection. Searching questions, posed by the collective worship resource 'No Outsiders', meaningfully challenge pupils' thinking. Leaders plan thoroughly for a variety of worship experiences and a thriving partnership with local churches richly enhances this. Adults and staff enjoy coming together to sing, reflect and pray. Clergy plan and lead worship weekly, which broadens pupils' knowledge of God. Families value opportunities to share worship in church and at school. Pupils actively engage in worship. Members of the Ethos Council passionately describe how they lead worship and communicate important messages to the school community. A strong culture of prayer is evident. Prayers are said throughout the school day and enhance moments for spiritual growth. Reflection areas around the school encourage pupils to offer thoughts and prayers related to the school's vision and values. Pupils act on their reflections to improve themselves in the future. Staff and pupils regularly contribute to church services and church leaders modify services to make them more accessible for pupils.

The school's Christian vision inspires the community to value all. The wellbeing of every member of the school community is a high priority. Leaders understand the challenges to mental health and the impact that this can have on pupil progress. The headteacher ensures that staff expertise in this area is secure through training and successful local partnerships. As a result, pupils are able to express

the importance of valuing themselves and others. They treat each other with respect. Parents find staff 'very approachable' and staff value being part of a supportive team. This provision enables all to flourish. The school's close partnership with the local churches is mutually beneficial and results in valuable practical support. For example, families welcome the opportunity to attend the toddler group at the local parish church whilst older siblings are at school. This is one of the many ways the school and church work together to extend support for families.

Encouraged by the vision of having a positive impact beyond the school gate, leaders strive to demonstrate social action within the local community. They actively engage. For example, by working together with church members, they helped prevent the closure of the local parish church. This has stimulated church growth, which has been transformational for the local community. It has brought joy and renewed confidence to all. Through the outward looking curriculum, pupils explore issues of justice and mutual responsibility. As a result of discussions within lessons, staff encourage pupils to promote change. This includes writing to local MPs about environmental issues, as well as reducing plastic use and electricity in school. However, pupils' confidence in understanding how they can take their place as active, global citizens is not fully developed.

RE makes an important contribution to the Christian character of the school. The school's effective curriculum reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. The school effectively complements its scheme with a resource called 'Understanding Christianity'. This ensures that pupils gain a fundamental understanding of Christianity, particularly within a local and national context. However, pupils' understanding of Christianity as a diverse, global world faith is underdeveloped. During RE lessons pupils thoughtfully consider identity and difference, within a framework characterised by tolerance and mutual respect. A range of activities and open-ended questions provoke pupils to examine the importance of belief and faith for others and themselves. The frequent use of the nearby churches enhances learning in the subject. The study of world religions and worldviews is effectively taught. Pupils are keen to discuss their learning and demonstrate good understanding. Leaders effectively monitor the curriculum, leading to engaging lessons. Leaders and staff actively engage in subject training. They disseminate their learning with passion, leading to fruitful curriculum development. Teachers use assessment carefully, enabling them to support and challenge pupils effectively. As a result, pupils make good progress.

The inspection findings indicate that Woodcocks' Well Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	28 September 2023	URN	111255
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	105
Diocese	Chester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Stephanie Beckett		
Chair	Maria Lawless		
Inspector	Anna Brooksbank	No.	974