

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Oswald's Church of England Academy	
Address	Addison Road, Rugby, CV22 7DJ
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>I can do all things through him who gives me strength' Philippians 4:13 Imagine with all your mind, Believe with all your heart, Achieve with all your might.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear and effective Christian vision is having a transformative impact on the pupils and adults at the school. The wider community has less understanding of the biblically rooted vision and its impact. • The strong leadership team makes sound strategic decisions, based on the Christian vision. This ensures that all pupils including the vulnerable and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are well supported and thrive at this school. • Daily collective worship is a special time of coming together for the school community. The pupils and adults are beginning to articulate how worship makes a difference to themselves and others. • Pupils are given opportunities to develop their spirituality through reflection and prayer. However, the lack of a definition of what spirituality means for St Oswald's limits the opportunity to offer deeper spiritual experiences for all. • Religious Education (RE) is a real strength of the school. Pupils enjoy RE and can confidently articulate their learning across the range of faiths studied.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather further evidence of the impact of the biblically rooted vision on the wider school community so that leaders may continue to explicitly develop the school as a Church school. • Extend the creative and inspirational elements of collective worship so that all pupils and adults can express how worship impacts on their life and the life of others. • Develop a shared understanding and definition of spirituality in order to give pupils wider opportunities for prayer and reflection.

Inspection findings

The distinctive Christian vision based on 'I can do all things through him who gives me strength' permeates all aspects of the life and work at St Oswald's School. Strong partnerships exist, empowering leaders to support individuals and enabling them to flourish as a team for the benefit of all. This is evident through pupils' positive behaviour, a vibrant curriculum and respectful relationships between all individuals.

Partnerships with the Coventry Multi Academy Trust and Diocese are strong. They actively support the new leadership team in their ambition to heal the school after a challenging few years. Leaders are living the vision as they take the school on a positive journey of growth. Strong leadership inspires other adults in the school to develop their skills and expertise. School leaders are ensuring that monitoring and assessment procedures are in place to inform school improvement, particularly for those pupils who are more vulnerable.

The school has a good understanding of the needs of its community and leaders have made sound financial and strategic decisions. These include considering the school uniform and its affordability, providing a range of lunchtime clubs and introducing clear behaviour reward systems. The recent World Book Day was fully inclusive as all children came dressed for bedtime stories with their teddy, rather than in expensive costumes! The Christian vision ensures that decisions support all pupils, including the vulnerable, to flourish and make good progress.

Staff enjoy working at the school and are fully supportive of the leadership team. Together they are offering pupils an aspirational and creative curriculum. Leaders are successful in ensuring that the curriculum encourages respect for diversity and cultural differences. This is evident through displays, pupil books and talking to children about their school values. They understand that justice is about being fair to all, learning how to be caring and listening to both sides.

Relationships between pupils and staff are respectful, with a strong emphasis on caring and supporting each other, in line with the vision of 'doing all things through him'. As a result, pupils are safe at this school and know who to go to if they have concerns or worries. Mental health and wellbeing for adults and pupils is a priority. During recent challenges the staff have come together as a family to guide and support each other. A staff member said, 'I love my job, colleagues are amazing, always there to support if you need them.'

Pupils are polite and well behaved. The range of lunchtime clubs offered ensures that pupils play well together demonstrating the skills needed to deal with any issues effectively. Pupils and parents value the gold coins and golden reward shop through which positive behaviour is rewarded. They recognise the difference this has made in developing a strong positive behaviour culture.

Pupils are encouraged to express their opinions and engage in social action through supporting charities such as Comic Relief and Children in Need. The school MAD (making a difference) council has been proactive in organising non-uniform days to support the local foodbank. The community is supported through the 'Help the hungry' project by providing holiday lunches at St Oswald's Church.

The school values are visible, fully embedded and understood by the whole school community. The Christian vision of strength has been recently renewed and is now even stronger. Together they promote the development of pupils in their learning and on their spiritual journey with integrity and dignity. Pupils recall with enthusiasm the 'Prayer stations' in church. Pupils have some opportunity to pray and reflect through daily prayers and occasional use of the prayer garden. The recent visit to Coventry Cathedral was

a moving and memorable experience for all who attended. Leaders are aware that their understanding of spirituality is not yet fully developed.

Worship plays an important part of daily life where pupils are invited to pray, sing, and reflect upon the school's Christian vision and values. Pupils understand that worship is a time when 'they can think about God and pray'. Worship is varied during the week, invitational in style and allows all those who wish, to actively engage. Moments of stillness and prayer allow pupils to reflect on their own lives. Pupils are confident to say and sing prayers that they know, including the Grace and the school prayer. The links with Coventry Cathedral are very important to the children. The International Cross of Nails (ICONS) network and ethos has enabled the children to have 'special training to be Peace Ambassadors'. They understand that this means to 'repair friends, support others and to help sort out differences.'

The school has close links with St Oswald's Church, attending services for the main Christian festivals. All families are welcomed at worship in school or church and the partnership is mutually beneficial, bringing the community together. Anglican traditions such as the Lord's Prayer and Holy Communion are evident within worship. Many parents supported the school and children at the recent Easter Service in church. Visitors such as 'Open the book' and 'Wild Worship' are highly valued by the children and enable them to 'imagine, believe and achieve' more effectively. They talk positively about their experience of worship and demonstrate deeper knowledge of Bible Stories. Pupils are less confident in expressing how worship is changing their daily lives.

The positive impact of the Christian vision is clearly seen in religious education (RE) which is a significant strength of the school. The RE leader is committed to creating a strong culture of high-quality teaching in RE. The subject is well resourced and planned. Pupils are receiving their entitlement through weekly RE lessons that are stimulating, thoughtful and reflective. Pupils are rightly proud of their learning in RE and have a good understanding of the world faiths studied. Pupils recognise the importance of RE and can explain the meaning of concepts such as incarnation. They compare key beliefs of Christianity and Sikhism with confidence. Teachers' assessments at the beginning and end of units of work identifies where good progress is being made. Reflection at the end of learning is enriching and deepening pupils' knowledge and understanding in RE.

The school community is united in their aspirations for pupils. St Oswald's distinctive Christian vision and values are visible and lived out daily. The growing culture of 'I can do all things through him who gives me strength' makes a powerful difference to the lives and outcomes of its pupils, enabling all members and families of the wider school community to flourish.

Information			
School	St Oswald's Church of England Academy	Inspection date	27 March 2023
URN	142022	VC/VA/Academy	Academy formally VC
Diocese/District	Coventry	Pupils on roll	192
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Jayne Geran (head of school) and Michelle Cuskelly (executive headteacher)		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Phyllis King		
Inspector	Paula Shaw	No.	