

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St George’s Church of England Primary School	
Address	Beaufort Road, Birmingham, B16 8HY

School vision

‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full’ (John 10:10)

School strengths

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Christian vision is at the heart of everything the school does. It is a powerful driver for the aspiration that everyone should have fullness of life. A spirit of care for all is a golden thread running through the life of the school. Children who are vulnerable or have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are particularly well cared for. This ensures that all have the opportunity to flourish. Vibrant, inclusive collective worship is a natural expression of the school’s Christian vision. Opportunities for inspiration, prayer and reflection contribute to the spiritual growth of pupils and adults. The quality of relationships is a particular strength of this Church school. There is a pervasive culture of empathy, safety and wellbeing. The school gives priority to religious education (RE), resulting in a challenging curriculum which promotes high standards of learning. Pupils are engaged and curious when learning about a range of worldviews including Christianity. |
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Areas for development

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop staff confidence in responding to opportunities for spiritual development both in the planned curriculum and as they arise in the school day. Support pupils to take the lead individually and collectively in acting for justice. This is so that they can become proactive citizens who drive positive change in their communities. Embed the renewed RE curriculum so that learning is consistently developed throughout pupils’ time at the school. |
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Inspection findings

<p>The commitment to the Christian vision drives life at St George’s school. The vision promotes ambition in and for pupils, and inspires staff to seek the best for everyone. Leaders ensure that the vision is at the forefront of all decision making. It is the mantra that has underpinned St George’s rapid improvement, uniting the school community around a common purpose. The commitment to ‘fullness of life’ strengthens leaders when difficult choices have to be made. It encourages them to embrace partnerships that will benefit the school. For</p>
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example, working with local businesses has brought opportunities for art and creativity. Because of this, pupils enjoy a rich indoor and outdoor environment in the heart of the inner city. Relationships with volunteers across St George's diverse community enhance the school's resources. The support of the parish church is particularly strong and wraps the community in love. The Birmingham Diocesan Multi Academy Trust (BDMAT) ensures that the school continues to move forward. Staff welcome the way the professional skills and fellowship of the Trust enable them to focus on the life of the school. The support and challenge of the Trust's Christian Distinctiveness adviser is particularly helpful. Commitment to the vision brings partners together to create a tangible atmosphere through the values of respect, empathy, forgiveness honesty and justice.

Pupils benefit from a varied, innovative, vision-driven curriculum that enables them to be successful learners. Pupils confidently talk about how they do well at school because they are encouraged to use their talents and gifts. Personal reflection encourages them to consider how their learning relates to themselves, others and the world. Leaders support staff to use a range of thoughtful strategies in their teaching. Because of this, pupils grow in confidence and curiosity as learners. A wide range of visits and enrichment opportunities helps foster pupils' potential and ambition. These include visiting art specialists, as well as involvement with the pupil parliament and immersive religious and cultural planned days. This broadens horizons, contributing to pupils' personal development. A parent commented 'My child loves art and the school does everything they can to give enriching experiences and encourage her creativity'. Support systems and bespoke interventions are in place, so all can participate. This enables pupils, including those with additional needs and those who are vulnerable, to experience success. Leaders have made the choice to increase pastoral staffing and resource dedicated sensory rooms. This expresses their commitment to the vision of fullness of life for all.

Collective worship at St George's is a natural expression of the school's Christian vision. As such it has a significant effect on the whole community. The well-planned programme is based on the Christian calendar and the school's vision and values. It offers a space for pupils and adults to reflect on these and other important Christian themes. The range of activities and experiences offered in worship means that it is invitational to all. Because of this, worship is particularly inclusive, allowing people of different abilities and interests to take part. Relationships with the local church and clergy add particular strength to St George's spiritual and community life. Links with a wider range of religious partners add further resource and richness to the school. Training and support from the Diocese is valued and effective because it increases people's confidence in their work as a Church school. Parents and carers benefit from being invited into worship, recognising its contribution to the spiritual life of their wider school community. The link of school houses with the qualities of important saints acts as a frequent reminder to pupils of what it means to be a fully rounded person. Worship leads to action, as each class shares thoughts and prayers through the 'Responding to Worship' big books. However, opportunities for spiritual development as they occur through the school day are currently underdeveloped.

Leaders give priority to RE and this affirms its importance to the whole school. Considerable thought has been given in choosing an RE syllabus which is appropriate to the interests and context of the pupils. Through focused evaluation, leaders are able to demonstrate the effectiveness of their choice. The curriculum is well planned and effectively builds on prior knowledge. This results in strong, successful learning. Religious literacy is impressive, with pupils demonstrating a rich knowledge of world religions. As a result, they talk confidently about how RE helps them relate to others' culture and beliefs. Stretch and challenge are evident in both the pupils' books and their voices, reflecting their engagement and growth. Pupils show a particularly striking understanding of sophisticated religious language. They talk confidently about Christian theology and enjoy making connections between Bible stories. They value the way that RE provides a safe space in which they can ask questions and share their viewpoints. Staff benefit from the expertise of Diocesan training which leads to lessons which are engaging and effective. They take full advantage of the diverse community, welcoming visitors to bring the learning to life. Where RE is taught well there is a strong sense of confidence in the subject matter and it is delivered with purpose. However not all lessons reflect the same levels of conviction.

The vision motivates leaders to create a culture of service to others and the world. Relationships across the year groups are strong and behaviour is good. The attention given to pastoral care raises pupils' confidence and makes them keen to be in school. Pupils understand that they should take responsibility for their choices. Because of this, the school has an active culture of reconciliation and forgiveness. School leaders and staff are advocates for their pupils and the families they serve. A breadth of leadership opportunities including school council, eco ambassadors and faith council results in an influential pupil voice. Staff encourage charitable giving and actions amongst pupils, but this is not widely developed. Pupils do not have many opportunities to consider how they would like to make a difference in our world. Whilst they understand what justice looks like in school, they do not fully explore how their voices can be used to champion and serve others in their wider community. However, where pupils have opportunities to serve projects that they feel passionate about, they relish these. Trust leaders maintain a close relationship with the school. They invest in staff through a range of opportunities for career development and a rich offering of wellbeing enhancements. Therefore, the vision creates a loving culture where people gain a strong sense of belonging.

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

Information

Inspection date	8 May 2024	URN	139267
VA/VC/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	211
Diocese	Birmingham		
MAT/Federation	BDMAT		
Headteacher	Daniel Rogers		
Chair	Sarah Smith		
Inspector	Gemma Hathaway	No.	C.23/24