

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

<b>All Saints' Church of England Infant School, Matlock</b>	
Address	Dimple Road, Matlock, DE4 3HX
School vision	
<p>Family, Faith, Flourish.</p> <p>‘God gave you that gift... now let it flourish, as a small flame grows into a fire.’ 2 Timothy 1:6 (International Children’s Bible)</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Saints' Infant School Christian vision responds to the needs of the community it serves. Deeply embedded, it underpins all aspects of school life. As a result, pupils and adults flourish.</li> <li>• Relationships at all levels are a strength. The focus on nurture and care for others is palpable. This extends to embracing whole families. Consequently, parents, pupils and staff feel part of a family that is built on faith.</li> <li>• Strong partnerships empower school leaders to make the Christian vision a lived reality for members of the school community. Unlocking the potential of pupils and adults, they enable the small flame to grow into a fire.</li> <li>• Collective worship is inspiring and inclusive. It provides opportunities for personal spiritual growth, reflection and response.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is a strength of the curriculum. Careful, sequential planning leads to a broad, balanced and diverse programme of learning. Pupils are therefore enabled in their understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, including Christianity.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the provision for pupils to talk about their own spiritual flourishing. This is so that the school's shared understanding of spirituality can be applied to their own experiences.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities and support for pupils to initiate responses to issues of injustice. This is to increase awareness of their role as agents of change in the school, community and wider world.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>All Saints' Infants is a school with the flourishing of adults and pupils at its heart. This is built on the foundations of faith and family. The Christian vision is deeply embedded. It ensures that leaders, including governors, are committed to the ‘small flame’ of All Saints' impacting not just its own community. It includes sharing the expertise of leaders and staff with other local Church schools with whom the school is federated. This further extends to schools in the Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT). Leaders are enabled by the embedded and biblically rooted Christian vision that is deeply relevant to the school’s context. The vision underpins and shapes policies and decisions. It is rigorously and robustly applied, monitored and evaluated. Governors work closely with school</p>	



leaders, the diocese and DDAT. This ensures they have the knowledge, skills and understanding to be effective as governors of a Church school. They are generous in sharing their time and expertise to the advantage of the school. The simplicity of the vision statement ensures that it is known, understood and part of the everyday language. Adults and pupils apply the themes of family and faith to aspects of each day. The vision empowers staff in their aspirations and confidence. They are encouraged in their professional development and work cooperatively for the benefit of the pupils and families they serve. Leaders value staff wellbeing equally to that of pupils. This leads to a community distinguished by care and nurture.

The joy and excitement that pupils and adults share for expanding their knowledge and understanding is evident. It reflects the intentions and successful impact of the school's vision that learning should lead to flourishing. Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported and challenged to succeed. The focus on enquiry-based learning is evident across the curriculum and contributes to pupils' thirst for knowledge. Spiritual development is intrinsic within the curriculum. Opportunities for pupils to reflect and flourish spiritually are planned within learning. Pupils understand that being calm, kind and mindful helps them in their life. However, they are not able to readily articulate this. Visits and visitors support teachers to bring the curriculum to life, creating rich and memorable experiences for pupils. An extensive programme of additional clubs and activities, including sports, arts and a breakfast club are offered at no cost to families. Many are freely chosen but some pupils are directed towards opportunities that will build their confidence and resilience. They supplement formal learning. Pupils recognise this approach as part of adults supporting them.

Rich, engaging worship enhances the daily life of this school. It invites all to grow in understanding, appreciation and engagement with Christianity as a living faith. Shared by church, school leaders and staff, worship is well-planned, effectively delivered and evaluated. Evaluation informs developments. These include recently extending the programme of visitors to support the leadership of worship. Through music, reflection, Bible stories and discussion, worship enriches individuals' spiritual development. Careful questions, age-appropriate explanations and moments of stillness enable pupils and adults, irrespective of religious beliefs, to reflect and respond. Throughout worship, the very youngest pupils and those with SEND are supported. This demonstrates leaders' determination that worship is accessible to all. The impact of the vision is seen in pupils' expressions of how they feel part of a family when they worship together. Members of the pupil worship team support staff in facilitating class worship. This develops pupils' confidence and enables them to share their spiritual insights and responses. Reflection spaces are well used and encourage personal contemplation and growth. Pupils regularly take prayers they have written in their class prayer books to read in worship. Through shared worship and friendship, the school and church community are united. Pupils relish attending church for visits and events such as exploring festivals through interactive stations around the building. The vicar is a frequent visitor into school. His presence ensures that pupils and staff feel a personal connection with the church. The celebration of major festivals and services are well supported by families. Parents recognise these as times that connect them with the church community.

Pupils and adults at All Saints' Infants are recognised as being unique, with their own gifts and talents. As a result, they are treated with care, respect and nurture. A pupil explained this by saying, 'we are all loved by everybody'. Pastoral care is a strength. It supports people in their successes and concerns. Pupils are confident that if things go wrong, they know how to respond in a fair and equitable way. Behaviour during learning and social times is calm, purposeful and marked by the application of Christian values, including forgiveness and respect. Support for good mental health and wellbeing is embedded. Pupils, including those with SEND and who are regarded as vulnerable, know that adults are available to support them and give them assistance when necessary. Parents appreciate the discreet, personalised care and support that they and their children receive and are

highly supportive of the school.

Pupils are knowledgeable about issues that impact the world, individuals and communities. A curriculum topic exploring ‘wonderful women’ enables pupils to eloquently express the importance of equity in matters of race and gender. They are thoughtful in their reflections, and enthusiastic in their responses to the needs of others. This includes contributing to a local foodbank throughout the year. National charities, including Gingerbread, are selected and supported in partnership with All Saints' church. Classes produced nativity displays for the church as they raised funds for the charity. There is unexplored potential however, for pupils to initiate action for issues they show concern about. Pupils confidently act at school and home to show responsibility towards others. ‘I help at home, so my mum doesn’t have to do everything’ said one.

RE enables pupils to flourish. A highly effective leader ensures a bespoke curriculum that is broad, balanced and sequential. It extends pupils’ knowledge and appreciation of religions and worldviews. Approaches taken to learning spark pupils’ inquisitiveness and advance their acquisition and accurate use of religious vocabulary. A questioning approach promotes opportunities for spiritual reflection and growth. Formal learning in RE is enhanced by educational visits and activities. An Islamic experience day and a mock baptism in All Saints' church are examples of this. Such carefully chosen experiences extend pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the impact of religions and worldviews beyond their own locality. Effective training and support are provided by the diocese. This ensures that curriculum developments are robust and accurate.

The inspection findings indicate that All Saints' Church of England Infant School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	4 July 2024	URN	144068
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	162
Diocese	Derby		
MAT	Derby Diocesan Academy Trust		
Executive Headteacher	Ben O'Connell		
Chair	Jo Smith		
Inspector	Jane Lewis	No.	27