

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St. John's Church of England Primary School

Vision

'Shine like the star you are.'

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl, instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16
To develop within ourselves an understanding of what is right and fair, and to have the strength to face challenges and do the right thing. To be people of hope. To celebrate individuality. To nurture and respect ourselves, others and the world in which we live. To be the best we can be.

St. John's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- St. John's Church of England Primary School, guided by its Christian vision and values, builds strong relationships that are central to its success. Leaders collaborate effectively with staff, staying true to the vision. Pupils are inspired to 'shine like the star you are,' and they are well prepared for future learning and life.
- Driven by the Christian vision, this school is a loving, inclusive community. Support for pupils, especially those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), is very strong.
- There is a well-planned and structured religious education (RE) curriculum. It is effective in allowing pupils to explore a wide range of religious beliefs and worldviews. This enables pupils to understand how beliefs shape opinions and influence actions.
- Collective worship is a valued part of school life. Times of prayer and reflection are appreciated by pupils, providing meaningful moments of stillness.
- Leaders have provided each pupil with a wide range of sporting and musical extra-curricular opportunities, enabling them to flourish. Pupils greatly enjoy taking part, and as a result, they shine.

Development Points

- Embed the school's understanding and shared language of spirituality through the school curriculum. This is to encourage and strengthen the spiritual development of adults and pupils.
- Enhance pupils' understanding of how to recognise injustice and respond to it. This is so that they are empowered to take action and to enrich the lives of others.
- Establishing clear assessment opportunities and processes alongside the RE curriculum. This is to inform and support effective teaching and learning.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

At St John's Church of England Primary School, the Christian vision is not just a statement, it is a lived experience. Adults and pupils alike are encouraged to 'Shine like the star you are,' fostering a culture of mutual support, compassion, and shared growth. This nurturing environment enables members of the school community to flourish together, underpinned by the SHINE values: Strength, Hope, Individuality, Nurture, and Excel. The commitment to this vision is clearly demonstrated by the governing body, who play an active and visible role in the life of the school. Their involvement ensures that strategic decisions remain rooted in the school's Christian ethos. Leadership at St John's is both courageous and visionary. Decisions are made with integrity and a clear moral purpose, always placing the wellbeing and development of pupils at the heart. An example of this has been decisions made as part of a multi-academy trust move. These have been driven by a desire to join a trust which better aligns with the school's values and long-term aspirations. The strength of relationships within the school is striking. Pupils demonstrate care and trust towards one another and the adults who guide them. This atmosphere of love and respect is a testament to the school's vision in action, creating a safe and inclusive space where the whole community is empowered to shine.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum at the school is rich and engaging, thoughtfully shaped around its Christian vision to enhance pupils' learning and overall development. Leaders enrich thematic learning by connecting it to diverse experiences, ensuring that barriers to learning are addressed. Strategic use of funding supports pupils considered to be vulnerable and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This makes the curriculum fully inclusive and allows pupils to thrive. Targeted interventions are provided where needed to boost achievement. Teachers incorporate opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth within lessons. However, a consistent and shared understanding of spirituality is underdeveloped, which limits deeper reflection on learning. The school prioritises holistic education, nurturing the whole child through a wide array of extra-curricular activities such as sports, music, and choir. Consequently, pupils are motivated and succeed, with parents and carers valuing the high levels of care provided by the school.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a cherished and integral part of life at St. John's, enriching both pupils and adults spiritually. It is joyful and varied, incorporating reflection, prayer, song, and storytelling. Thoughtful planning ensures worship is closely aligned with the school's Christian vision and values, often illustrated through Bible stories. Dedicated prayer and reflection spaces in classrooms offer pupils meaningful opportunities to engage with these values. Pupils are enthusiastic about joining the respected worship team, particularly enjoying leading celebrations. A strong partnership with the local church further enriches collective worship. Church members regularly lead services, including at significant times in the church calendar, such as Christmas and Easter. Pupils, parents and carers enjoy spending time with the local clergy. Special moments shared together, such as Messy Church sessions and the Christmas nativity, are greatly valued by the school community.

Vision and School Culture

Loving and respectful relationships are central to life at St. John's. Rooted in its Christian vision, the school is a place of encouragement where pupils and staff are empowered to "shine like the star you are." Staff know pupils well and are deeply committed to nurturing their individual strengths. Inspired by the example set by senior leaders, the whole school community supports each other to shine. Staff work collaboratively, encouraging one another as they care for pupils, creating a safe and inclusive environment. Pupils and adults are accepted and valued. This culture of mutual support extends to staff wellbeing, with leaders providing opportunities such as training and counselling that contribute to their professional and personal growth. Pupils and staff alike are proud to belong to a school where they are recognised as individuals and encouraged to be their best. Leaders



demonstrate a deep understanding of the school community, offering dedicated nurture provision and enriching experiences, enabling pupils to thrive. Parents and carers know and greatly value that their children are loved as individuals in this nurturing school environment.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Rooted in the Christian vision to “Shine like the star you are,” pupils at St John’s are nurtured to become thoughtful, responsible citizens. They are encouraged to serve their school community through a range of leadership roles, including as members of the school council and worship team. These roles help pupils understand the value of service and the obligations of leadership. They value their involvement in community outreach. The Year 6 pupils have taken on the responsibility for establishing the school as a Foodbank donation collection centre. This marks a positive step towards challenging injustice. Pupils are excited by the opportunity to bless others in their community. Through the curriculum, pupils are beginning to explore the concept of justice. However, their understanding of what justice means in a wider context, and how they might act to challenge injustice beyond the school, is still developing. Opportunities for pupils to take initiative and lead change in the wider community are not fully embedded.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum provides pupils with a broad and balanced foundation for learning. Pupils engage well with the content, demonstrating good understanding and thoughtful responses across key themes. Pupils talk confidently and with respect about their own beliefs and those of other people. Older pupils understand the effects of faith on actions, including their own. They use discussions about God, big ideas, and deep questions to help them flourish. The subject leader draws on training from the diocese. Visits to the local church reinforce learning about Christian life. Significant changes have been made to the curriculum and supporting resources. However, the development of a robust assessment framework is needed to ensure that pupil progress is consistently monitored, evaluated and effectively supported. This is to align assessment practices with curriculum intent and further enhance outcomes.

Information

Address	Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks, Stoke-on-Trent, ST9 0BN		
Date	22 October 2025	URN	147572
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	181
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	QEGSMAT		
MAT Chair	Mark Mallender		
Headteacher	Sarah Stone		
Chair of Governors	Lisa Rhodes		
Inspector	Sara Goddard		