

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

St Margaret's Church of England VC Junior School, Wolstanton	
Address	Knutton Road, Wolstanton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 0HU

School vision
<p>* Inspire a strong sense of faith and commitment to Christian &amp; British values            * Inspire a love of learning so children can achieve their potential</p> <p>Isaiah 40:31 "But those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The newly revised Christian vision has quickly become treasured by the school. It informs actions from the strategic to the daily decisions, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.</li> <li>• Collective worship is well planned and led. Pupils are extremely enthusiastic about leading worship for their peers. This leads to growth in biblical knowledge.</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with the church are greatly valued. Together this is bringing the Christ like love to life for the pupils and their families.</li> <li>• God's strength and the teachings of Jesus, underpin a culture of justice and responsibility to others and the world.</li> <li>• Pupils have a strong knowledge of world religions due to the well planned religious education (RE) curriculum.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further enhance opportunities for planned spiritual moments so that pupils may develop personal insights into their own individual beliefs.</li> </ul>
Inspection findings
<p>Led by the vision, the dedicated leadership team have created a culture where pupils and adults flourish together. Pupils and staff are treasured and encouraged to 'soar on wings like eagles'. The six key values of co-operation, equality, respect, forgiveness, compassion and peace are included in school life. The vision makes a significant contribution to the community that it serves. It raises the aspirations of pupils and enriches their understanding of the world in which they live. Pupils also use the language of the Christian values to reflect and respond. As a result of the Christian vision and associated values, they are inspired to succeed. Through a deeply caring ethos this is a warm, welcoming and friendly school. Pupils and staff flourish because of the way in which St Margaret's lives out its vision and values every day.</p> <p>Leaders have crafted an aspirational 'Compass Curriculum', which is underpinned by the values and the desire to provide inspirational learning. Staff know their pupils well and understand their needs. Therefore, pupils are given the opportunity to access learning whatever their challenge. As a result, there is an equality in learning and vulnerable pupils thrive. After school clubs are varied giving</p>



pupils the opportunity to explore their interests and further their talents. These activities include a choir, cricket and performing on the stage at the local theatre for their families. Older pupils enjoyed a residential helping them to grow in God's strength by overcoming the challenges of new experiences. Pupils explore their spirituality through the curriculum, particularly in RE. They learn how to see the ow and wow moments in their everyday lives and know what makes them happy. Pupils and adults sometimes find it difficult to articulate their ideas about their own spiritual development in the wider curriculum.

Collective worship is a joyful time and the heartbeat of the school. It is varied in approach with times of reflection, prayer, song and stories. Worship is led by members of staff and clergy. Prayer is part of the everyday life of the school. It is valued as a way of encouraging thankfulness. It is also a time to give their worries to God and to reflect on the world around them. Reflection areas have been developed in the classrooms and pupils find these useful to ponder the school's Christian values. Pupils enjoy leading worship on aspects that are important to them. They are rightly proud to read their prayers with their peers in worship. Pupils want to be part of the highly regarded worship. This also means that different ways of worship are explored, giving the opportunity for all to be engaged. A focus on the school's Christian values within worship enables pupils to work and play extremely well together. The pupil 'faith team' regularly meet to discuss how worship can be changed, and their suggestions are acted upon by leaders and clergy. Pupils enjoy celebrating their successes each week with the 'Eagle Certificates' awarded for soaring on wings like eagles and overcoming challenges.

Pupils and adults are warmly welcomed into this harmonious school family. The leaders work to create a Christian community that is rooted in being Christ like. There is an atmosphere of Christian love and acceptance, where all are respected in this loving school family. Pupils are encouraged to follow the Christian values, and these are treasured and known as a way of life. This creates a calm and purposeful learning environment. Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They care extremely well for each other. Pupils see themselves as role models and show kindness and love to each other. On the rare occasions where there may be a disagreement, pupils know that teachers will quickly resolve matters. Staff give genuine, caring support to each other professionally and personally. They compassionately assist parents when they or their children have difficult times. Parents are grateful for the help and guidance they receive. One parent described support from the school as like being 'wrapped up in a big cuddle'. The relationship between church and school is exceptional and the community benefit from this strong and effective partnership. The school holds its services and celebrations in the church. Pupils and parents speak of the friendly reception everyone receives, and how much they enjoy going to church.

Within school there are various opportunities where pupils can help others. Roles such as the faith team, anti-bullying ambassadors and Rotakids are examples of pupils leading change. The school encourages a range of fundraising opportunities, including the Juvenile Diabetes Fund, NSPCC and the Royal British Legion. This provides character development, training in leadership and opportunities for making a difference. Leaders investigate ways to bring the wider world into pupils' experiences. Rotakids welcomed peers from Germany to learn together how they can work and support their communities. Some pupils act individually to champion charities because they have a personal link. Pupils are also involved in community projects, such as supporting the local food bank. They talk of their responsibility, that if they see something out of place, they know that they can fix it. Pupils understand the need for change to help improve the world in which they live.

RE is well led by informed and enthusiastic staff. The curriculum is challenging for pupils and includes a wide range of religions and worldviews. RE is well resourced, including the use of visits, accompanied by the vicar, which enriches the subject greatly. Pupils enjoy RE. They are confident and articulate and discuss difficult concepts with knowledge and understanding. Pupils are



confident to share their individual beliefs within a safe and supportive learning environment. They understand that Christianity is a global world faith and the importance of learning about worldviews. Pupils can make direct links between their learning in RE and their own life choices. Strong and effective links with the diocese ensure the RE lead accesses current and relevant training, which is shared with staff.

The inspection findings indicate that St. Margaret’s Church of England Junior School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	4 July 2024	URN	124268
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	228
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	David Hugill		
Chair	Charles Freeman		
Inspector	Sara Goddard	No.	976