

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Francis Church of England Primary School and Nursery	
Address	Teazel Avenue, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1LZ
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	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p>Believing that we are 'His Handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,' we aspire to be our best. Ephesians 2:10</p> <p>The living out of our vision is shared with the school community as: Living our High Five Values as we learn and grow together in our Christian school.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School leaders use the Christian vision of this school to inform all decisions and ensure that each child can be their best. Monitoring of the vision and the impact of its theological underpinning is at an early stage. • The Christian vision informs the ways leaders develop a broad and ambitious curriculum, which leads to strong reflection, spiritual development and debate. • Pupils are inspired and excited in their learning as a result of a curriculum that raises big questions and opportunities for social action. Such opportunities are in their infancy. • Collective worship is excellent, because of the transformational and nourishing partnership between the school, the local church and families. • Pupils engage with religious texts and theological ideas through a religious education (RE) curriculum that is given high priority. The monitoring of pupil progress in faiths other than Christianity is a developing area for leaders.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust and school leaders to refine their monitoring of the Christian vision and its underpinning theology when evaluating this school as a Church school. • To continue to develop curriculum approaches to engage pupils in social action, as courageous advocates at local, national and global levels. • For leaders to monitor the breadth of the curriculum in RE to ensure that pupils make progress in the different aspects of RE.

Inspection findings

St Francis School is a warm, welcoming and caring school. Each child is celebrated in creative and encouraging ways. 'Aspiring to best our best' sits at the heart of the school's Christian vision and informs decisions made by committed trustees, governors, and school leaders. They ensure that financial and human resources are used effectively and inclusively so that pupils can flourish and achieve. As a result, pupils aspire to be their best in a rich curriculum that is enhanced by extra-curricular provision. Pupils are taught by staff who are passionate and motivated to ensure that pupils live out the high five values as they grow. The school's values of love, happiness, forgiveness, friendship and honesty are well known by the school community and pupils joyfully celebrate these through song. Leaders, pupils and governors are clear about the impact that these values have on how the school's Christian vision is lived out. Parents choose to send their children to this school as the values are well known across the Bournville community. The theological underpinning of the school's Christian vision has been recently reviewed, therefore the evaluation of the impact of vision is at an early stage.

School leaders explain how the Christian vision is used thoughtfully to shape the broad and ambitious curriculum so that all pupils can aspire to be their best and do good works. The development of the church ground and distribution of pupil produced leaflets to promote and support the local food bank are all recent examples of the impact of the curriculum. Ambition, diversity and spirituality are three underpinning principles used by leaders to ensure the Christian vision is realised across all subject areas. Identifying the specific needs of each pupil impacts positively in ensuring all pupils achieve. Pupils with special educational needs and disability are well supported to access the ambitious curriculum. Leaders ensure that carefully chosen topics and texts that are used across the curriculum encourages respect for difference and diversity. This challenges the pupils to think deeply, exploring a range of ethical issues. Pupils enjoy debating and exploring different points of view and disagree well. They enjoy continuing these discussions beyond the lesson with their teachers and with each other. Staff and pupils value the importance of reflection across the school day. They celebrate how reflective opportunities lead to pupils doing good works within school and out in the local community.


The Christian vision at St Francis School determines the partnerships that are formed with a range of supportive organisations. Strong partnerships with the diocese and St Francis Church enable rich connections that serve the local community. Pupils value their recently completed Archbishop of York's Young Leaders Award and have used this opportunity to work alongside the local church to serve the community. This award has given pupils confidence to speak to headteachers about the difference taking action can make. Partnership with the Medic Malawi charity enables school and church leaders to work with pupils of all ages. This leads to pupils developing a fuller understanding of injustice and inequality. Pupils feel empowered to find ways to make a difference. Through the curriculum and collective worship pupils are provided with an increasing frequency of opportunities to explore 'big questions'. Pupils then consider how they can respond to challenges raised in different ways. Pupil led social action is a growing development from the curriculum. Pupils and adults have seen the impact of social action in their locality and have a growing excitement to continue to develop the good works they do.

Collective worship unites and nourishes the school. Driven by the Christian vision, the school's harmonious partnership with the local Church impacts profoundly on how pupils and adults grow spirituality. A rising number of parents and family members join acts of worship in school and Church. Dozens of families delight in attending the termly Eucharist with their children in church. Pupils and adults value the culture of deep reflection, which provides great support and inspiration. Prayer is a natural part of many pupils' lives. Termly stay and pray sessions invite children to explore prayer alongside their families. Families readily express how prayer is also used by children at home as well as spontaneously throughout the school day. Pupils are inspired to do good works and be their best through a variety of approaches taken by different leaders in collective worship. Pupils look forward to collective worship and enjoy Bible stories that are presented in creative and inspiring ways. Pupils

appreciate this time to consider the teachings of Jesus and biblical messages. They reflect on what this means to them individually and this informs their own high five values. The school ethos council is an active expression of the Christian vision of the school. Pupil representatives from across the school seek to help people who want to worship God. They engage in the planning and evaluation of collective worship with pupils in all year groups. As a result, pupils across the school animatedly express their enjoyment of collective worship and how this leads to thoughtful and respectful approaches in their own lives. The partnership with the local church leads to a transformational impact on the lives of the children and adults. Dedicated members of the church congregation connect with school leaders, pupils and their families through innovative approaches to collective worship. 'Godly Play', choral worship, the development of green spaces and support of intergenerational work within the community draw the community together. This leads to a deep connection where the high five values and the school vision of doing good works are lived out as a reflective and spiritual community.

RE has high priority by leaders and is an important expression of the vision where pupils learn and grow together. RE is well planned to ensure that pupils develop an age-appropriate understanding of Christianity as a living world faith. The start of each unit raises a searching question for pupils to explore in their RE learning. Pupils value the way RE enables them to learn about different religions. Pupils see that RE is a safe space, where they are confident to explore their own religious ideas and questions about faith in today's world. The experienced RE leader works actively with the diocese and a range of external partnerships. This ensures that pupils encounter a variety of world views through visits to a range of places of worship.

Through the vision and values at St Francis school, pupils and adults aspire to be their best. This can be seen in relationships across the school community as the high five values are lived out. As a result, pupils and adults flourish as school, the church and families grow and learn together.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	Regular monitoring by the RE leader is impacting on the improving standards in RE. Staff training and supportive resources are beginning to ensure different aspects of RE are explored with pupils. Some areas of RE are less well developed. Pupils value and enjoy the opportunity RE provides them to develop knowledge and understanding of major world religions, other than Christianity. As a result, they learn and progress well.			
Information				
School	St Francis Church of England Primary and Nursery School	Inspection date	18 October 2022	
URN	143434	VC/VA/Academy	VA	
Diocese/District	Birmingham	Pupils on roll	219	
MAT/Federation	Fioretti Trust			
Headteacher (Acting)	Emma Jones			
Chair of Governors	Matthew Tite			
Inspector	Matthew Welton	No.	C1818	