

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Cutnall Green CofE VA First	
Address	School Road, Cutnall Green, WR9 0PH
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
We follow Jesus' example by valuing and cherishing all God's children in an ever-changing world. We are loved so we can love, we learn so we can grow and therefore live our lives to the full, flourishing in the eyes of God now and in the future. Love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:32)
Key findings
• The lives of adults and pupils are shaped and nurtured by the deeply embedded Christian vision and values. All ages, including the very youngest learners, watch over one another with love. • Collective worship unites the school as a thriving community built on Anglican traditions. It secures spiritual growth and is thoughtfully linked to the vision. Acts of worship make limited reference to diversity within Christianity. • The school is the founder of the Rivers Learning Trust. Its work over many years demonstrates that Cutnall Green informs the development of other schools, including those which are not Church schools. • Pupil leadership is exceptionally well developed. Those with additional personal and learning needs receive this from their peers as well as adults and in turn support others. • Pupils make excellent progress in religious education (RE). The subject is very well led and taught so that many pupils discuss complex concepts with a maturity and language rarely evident in Primary schools.
Areas for development
• Leaders to extend the creative aspects of worship so pupils develop a wider understanding that Christianity is itself a multi-cultural worldwide faith.

Inspection findings

Leaders and staff create and nourish an exciting, vibrant and inclusive culture. 'Every day is a brilliant experience,' is a comment from several parents and carers. All are rightly proud to be part of the school community. At this school pupils are truly loved and guided so they live life to the full. Inspired by Jesus's teaching told in Mark's Gospel, pupils and adults express an effervescent joy in being together. The Bible teaching and vision securely root the everyday life of the school. This is a safe place to live and learn. Here, pupils and adults grow and thrive. This smaller than average, rural school is a key player in its family of schools. Cutnall Green make an immense difference to the lives of its own members and further afield. As a founding member in a dynamic and diverse trust, Cutnall Green leads on curriculum development and vision-driven leadership. Its positive impact extends to schools that are not Church schools. Leaders support progress in other schools by sharing expertise and providing work placements for staff from elsewhere. Governance structures cherish and develop the Church school aspects. Christian distinctiveness advocates (formerly titled governors) know the school extremely well. Their areas of expertise are utilised to enhance the life of the school as a Church school. An example of this is that advocates meet with pupils, listen to their views then consider and apply these in their strategic work. Pupils have a powerful voice and platform to convey their ideas and concerns. In this way the community is together living, learning and loving as one body.

This is an excellent Church school. Each individual is cherished and enabled to love others. This is especially so for pupils with additional needs who may require high levels of support. To their classmates they are valuable members of the team who bring their own unique qualities to the class and school. It is unsurprising therefore that the number on roll has grown as more pupils stay on for upper Key Stage 2 rather than move to middle school.

Pastoral care is highly effective. Pupils who have struggled with school are supported to become better attenders. In fact, attendance figures for those with additional needs is higher than for others. This exemplifies the highly effective pastoral provision. Those pupils with social or emotional needs find these are met with compassion and practical aid. Leaders invest in and secure their vision. Staff receive specialist training on the range of needs in the community, partially on wellbeing and good mental health. All staff acknowledge that life being full includes life being hard at times. Those pupils and adults who do not express a religious affiliation, uphold the vision as they understand there is a positive impact on everyone. As a pupil commented, 'We are a great school, because we have a great vision.'

The school has strong historic roots in the Anglican parishes it serves. These connections are enriching of both churches and school. Links with the local village also benefit the school. This is best seen in the shared worship life. Support from the vicar and the 'Open the Book' team volunteers are a highlight of the week. Pupils are confident to act out Bible stories, to write and share their own moving prayers and reflections. Worship plays close attention to Anglican traditions and customs, for example lighting a candle with three wicks to honour the Christian belief in God as Three in One. Pupils sing with gusto and enjoy coming together daily for worship. Prayer is a natural and unforced part of the day. All are invited to pray or reflect as they wish. Even in pre-school, the youngest children take time to pause and reflect through the day. Some use of the wonderful outdoor space is made for worship. While there is much to commend and the impact of worship is good, pupils have limited awareness that there is great diversity with Christianity as well as in other religions and worldviews.

There is a depth of knowledge in RE. Pupils explore, research and question themes on Christianity and a range of faiths. Their knowledge of the similarities as well as difference between these is exceptional. Rarely would pupils aged 10 be able to explain the

complementary but distinct customs of orthodox and liberal progressive Jews. At Cutnall Green, RE makes a profound impact on pupils' sense of global citizenship. The subject is exceptionally well led and taught by staff who actively seek to develop their own understanding. Expert support from the diocese is instrumental to ensuring the learning in RE is challenging and so deep.

Another remarkable feature of this school is the way pupil leadership is offered and developed. The many pupil groups, on the environment, worship, sports and wellbeing are innovative in the way pupils initiate actions. For example, it was pupils who suggested taking time outdoors for a short walk would help those who find it hard to settle to work. Pupils display a mature sensitivity to the needs of others. Inclusion is more than a word here. It is the very lifeblood of the school. Serving in the different leadership groups enables pupils to develop skills, as one budding tycoon said, 'We learn helpful skills for the future and for the world of business.'

The curriculum, based on the United Nations goals, is exciting. Lessons and varied extra-curricular activities spark pupils' interests and passions, especially on issues of worldwide poverty and climate change. Learning is delivered with engaging teaching techniques. Pupils develop oral and reasoning skills through the use of coloured cups. 'Use your cups' enables pupils to contribute their views, agreeing, seeking clarification, or disagreeing with another's comment. Pupils, therefore, successfully agree and disagree well. They develop breath taking maturity and confidence. Spiritual growth is also creatively offered and secured across the school's provision. Pupils and staff are confident to use the shared language of 'nows, ows and wows' in their daily lives. At an even deeper level, pupils articulate why they feel the way they do, may change their own thinking and consequently show great empathy for others.

At Cutnall Green all ages are loved so they experience the richness and fullness of life at this truly excellent school.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	Pupils make outstanding progress, in many cases, exceeding the expectations for their age. The RE curriculum ensures pupils learn well as they move up school. Work in books demonstrates rich learning across the range of topics studied. Teachers access expert advice, so the teaching and learning are rich, current and relevant. The subject a clear reflection of the vision to learn and live to the full.			
Information				
School	Cutnall Green CofE VA First	Inspection date	18 January 2023	
URN	141412	VC/VA/ Academy		
Diocese/District	Worcester	Pupils on roll	135	
MAT/Federation	Rivers Church of England MAT			
Headteacher	Stuart Grimes			
Chair of Trust Board	Caroline Hoddinott			
Inspector	Allyson Taylor	No.	768	