Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Walton on Trent Church of England Primary and Nursery School

Vision

Living, Learning, Laughing in God's Love

To be a vibrant learning community aspiring to celebrate God's love and the uniqueness of each individual. This means offering kindness, honesty and respect to our local and global community and demonstrating courage, perseverance and ambition in order to flourish in the joy and hope of 'life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Walton on Trent 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

- The Christian vision of 'Living, Learning and Laughing in God's love' is deeply embedded at Walton on Trent. Biblically rooted, it clearly and meaningfully articulates the school's commitment to enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- Inclusion is strongly rooted in the school's Christian vision. Leaders ensure that pupils are recognised and valued as unique children of God. This underpins a culture where kindness, dignity, and respect are consistently demonstrated.
- Collective worship is a central and valued part of the school day. It provides rich and meaningful opportunities for pupils and adults to engage in spiritual reflection and personal growth.
- Pupils demonstrate a well-developed understanding of injustice. Through this they are empowered to respond with confidence, compassion and a commitment to making a positive difference in the world.
- The strategic leadership of religious education (RE) ensures that the curriculum is engaging and thoughtfully planned. Consequently, pupils approach the subject with enthusiasm and demonstrate a secure understanding of a range of religions and worldviews.

Development Points

- Sharpen leaders and governors' evaluation of the impact of the Christian vision. This is so that it more precisely drives the ongoing improvement of this as a Church school.
- Extend opportunities for pupils to independently initiate and lead action that challenges injustice and supports positive change. This is to strengthen how their sense of personal responsibility is guided by the vision and leads to the flourishing of others.
- Deepen the provision for spiritual reflection across the curriculum. This is to support the way that it helps pupils to flourish spiritually through opportunities for reflection and deep thinking.

Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Deeply rooted in biblical teaching, the Christian vision shapes leaders' actions and informs strategic decisions that enable pupils and adults to flourish. This vision is clearly articulated and deeply embedded across the school community. It provides a strong foundation for decision making and daily practice. Close partnerships with the multi-academy trust (MAT) and the diocese add strength and capacity by deepening the understanding of the Christian vision. As a result, leaders consistently promote the concept of 'life in all its fullness'. This ensures that the flourishing of pupils and adults is central to strategic priorities. The vision is more than a set of aspirational words; it is actively lived out through a culture of inclusion and care. Leaders demonstrate a clear commitment to ensuring that each pupil is recognised as a unique child of God. Staff share this commitment and work collaboratively to ensure that the vision shapes both academic and personal development. Leaders, including governors, know the school well and have an accurate understanding of its Christian foundation. However, their evaluation of the impact of the vision is not consistently sharp or precise. This limits their understanding of the impact of actions taken to strengthen the Christian foundation of this Church school.

Vision and Curriculum

The school's vision meaningfully shapes the curriculum, ensuring that learning experiences are inclusive, engaging and aspirational. Consequently, leaders have created a curriculum that supports pupils to flourish academically and personally. The school's Christian values of kindness, honesty and respect flow from the vision, supporting the impact of the curriculum on pupils. As a result, they develop confidence, resilience and a sense of ambition. Beyond the classroom, a range of extra-curricular opportunities brings the school's vision to life. This enables pupils to develop their interests, talents and character whilst building confidence and a sense of belonging. Inclusion is a notable feature of school life. Thoughtful adaptations and well-considered provision ensure that pupils, including those who are vulnerable or have additional needs, can access learning successfully. As a result, they experience a sense of achievement and belonging. Being part of the MAT allows pupils to work collaboratively with those from other Church schools. While there are opportunities for spiritual development in some subjects, these are not consistently planned across the curriculum. As a result, pupils do not always have regular opportunities to reflect deeply or articulate their thinking more widely. This limits opportunities within the curriculum for pupils to flourish spiritually.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is central to daily life at Walton on Trent and is highly valued by the school community. It is thoughtfully planned and creates space for pupils and adults to engage in reflection and explore the vision. Worship themes are clearly linked to both biblical teaching and leaders' understanding of 'living life in all its fullness'. The link with the local church is cherished by pupils and parents alike. Pupils respond positively to worship and demonstrate an ability to reflect on its messages in relation to their own lives. Older pupils, in their role as 'spiritual guardians', lead familiar opening and closing prayers that signal worship time. Opportunities for reflection support personal spiritual growth and foster a sense of calm and belonging. Leaders' decision to use sign language to express spirituality brings the motto, 'feed the soul, feel connected, feel the joy', to life.
This approach is enabling pupils to speak more confidently about moments of spiritual reflection. They readily share examples, such as the sensation of movement while on a swing or the unexpected appearance of a robin in the school.

Vision and School Culture

Walton on Trent is a highly inclusive and nurturing community where the Christian vision underpins a culture of dignity and belonging. Relationships between pupils and adults are characterised by kindness and mutual respect. Pupils speak positively about their experiences and demonstrate care for one another in their interactions. The school successfully creates an environment where individuals feel valued and supported. This is

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evident in the way that staff know pupils well and respond sensitively to their needs. Warm and nurturing relationships mean that pupils readily seek out trusted adults to share information, discuss concerns and celebrate successes. The strong focus on inclusion ensures that difference is celebrated and that members of the community feel they belong. As a result, pupils are empowered to share their lived experience with each other. Leaders create a supportive and collaborative working environment where adults feel valued and respected. This fosters a positive culture that enables staff to contribute confidently and effectively to the life of the school.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils demonstrate a clear understanding of areas such as fairness, equity and the importance of treating others with dignity and respect. This understanding is rooted in the school's Christian vision and is reinforced through their learning and wider school experiences. They are motivated to make a positive difference and show compassion towards others. As a result, they engage in activities that support their community, such as litter picking in the local area. This reflects their developing understanding of how their sense of personal responsibility can benefit others. Partnerships with local charities and businesses give pupils increasing exposure to the wider world. However, opportunities for pupils to initiate and lead action that challenges injustice are less developed.

Religious Education

RE is a strength at Walton on Trent. The subject benefits from effective leadership, supported by productive collaboration with the diocese and other Church schools within the trust. This contributes to a well-planned and engaging curriculum. This is designed to encourage curiosity and thoughtful discussion. As a result, pupils approach RE with enthusiasm and demonstrate a secure understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. They are confident to share their ideas and respond respectfully to the views of others. The RE curriculum makes a strong contribution to pupils' personal development by enabling them to explore questions of belief, identity and meaning. Leaders' monitoring of RE is effective in maintaining high expectations and securing a high-quality curriculum experience. As a result, pupils develop both knowledge and understanding, alongside skills of reflection and empathy. RE stands as a strong expression of the school's vision, supporting pupils to grow as informed and respectful members of a diverse society.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Coton Road, Walton-on-Trent, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 8NL		
Date	25 June 2026	URN	146607
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	136
Diocese	Derby		
MAT	John Taylor Multi Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	Colin Hopkins		
Headteacher	Kathy Dingle		
Chair of Governors	Matt Booth		
Inspector	Jo Westaby		

