

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

<b>Hixon St Peter's Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	Church Lane, Hixon, ST18 0PS
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	Excellent

School's vision
<p>'Opening doors with learning, faith and care'</p> <p>'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'</p> <p>Matthew 7:7</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Peter's doors have been opened wide to serve the local community of Hixon. Leaders and staff are changing lives through their committed living out of the school's Christian vision. Their work is transformative.</li> <li>• The deeply-rooted Christian vision lies at the heart of strategic planning and decision making. Leaders are ably supported in this work through strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with key stakeholders.</li> <li>• The spiritual life of the school is strong with richly planned spiritual opportunities woven throughout the curriculum.</li> <li>• Collective worship is expertly led by the headteacher. Pupils are fully involved in the planning, leadership and evaluation of worship. Pupils of all ages are able to articulate the transformational impact that worship has on their daily lives.</li> <li>• Leaders have developed an aspirational curriculum for religious education (RE). Pupils of all ages flourish in RE as a result.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed the use of the school's shared language to describe spirituality. This will support pupils in articulating their own spiritual development.</li> <li>• Develop the comprehensive curriculum guide for RE, so that it includes reference to RE provision throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This will support teaching staff in building upon the strong foundations of RE learning within the Early Years.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

The biblical principle of 'ask, seek, knock' is the golden thread which runs from the heart of this school and out into the community. The headteacher is tenacious in her mission to bring the vision to life. She has created a deeply loving culture of welcome, inclusion and acceptance for all. In living out the vision, staff have 'opened the doors' to a new nursery, along with two-year-old provision and a toddler group. The building of new housing in the village led to a large number of pupils moving to St Peter's. Staff welcomed these new families with love and compassion. As a result, parents feel cherished within the family of St Peter's. Staff and families are keen to share inspirational examples of flourishing. This includes not only longstanding members of the community, but also new families who have been given a fresh start filled with hope and aspiration.

St Peter's contributes deeply and meaningfully to the Mid-Trent Academy Trust. The trust has made brave financial decisions to support leaders in practically living out their vision. The school has a strong relationship with St Peter's Church. This leads to mutual flourishing for both the school community and the congregation. The school engages fully with the work of their local diocese. The training and support offered by their diocesan advisor has significant impact. As a result of these strong partnerships, the culture and provision at St Peter's truly lead to mutual flourishing for all.

Leaders have created an all-encompassing culture of love and inclusion. They are 'opening doors with learning, faith and care' for all pupils. There is a relentless focus on provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). Parents recognise the significantly positive impact that this has on their children. Leaders invest heavily in supporting pupils' social, emotional and mental health needs. They have trained staff to become mentors alongside employing the services of an experienced children's counsellor. Case studies demonstrate that the impact is transformational. This work is changing both the lives and the life chances of pupils and their families.

In this school, social action is the norm. Leaders allocate dedicated curriculum time for inspirational social action projects. Pupils are confident when sharing deeply personal reasons for the selection of their projects. They speak with enthusiasm about the impact they have had. Pupils are articulate, committed and passionate about social justice and social action as a result of the innovative work in this area. The school is equipping its pupils to become adults who are agents of change within their communities.

Staff have the highest of expectations for the pupils in their care. The vision has led to the creation of ambitious yet inclusive curriculum intent statements such as 'Everyone is a reader'. This inclusive approach ensures a culture of 'no child being left behind'. Through their Christian value of courage, teachers support pupils in learning the value of making mistakes. The impact of the school's work in this area can be seen in the high level of pupil attainment.

Leaders and staff have a clear understanding of spiritual development. They have developed a shared language to describe spiritual development, but this is not used with pupils. Rich spiritual experiences are carefully woven throughout the curriculum. Alongside regular whole school spirituality days, these experiences provide valuable opportunities for pupils to respond creatively to a range of different stimuli. Pupils have a strong ability to explore, articulate and debate spiritual and ethical issues as a result of this excellent provision. Pupils talk of the importance of prayer within their lives. They particularly enjoy taking their class reflection books home to prepare their own prayers and reflections with their families. Through this work, the school is supporting the spiritual growth of the wider community.

The school's approach to behaviour is highly successful and is fully underpinned by the vision and associated values. The deeply loving culture of all-encompassing acceptance ensures the celebration of difference. Pupils take pride in the positions of responsibility they hold within the school community. Playground buddies are spontaneous in the love and compassion they show in caring for younger children. Pupils flourish through the daily living out the school's core Christian values of respect, friendship and compassion.

The school community cherishes their daily act of collective worship. The headteacher leads this area of school life with devotion. There is a culture of continuous evaluation and improvement. Pupils are involved in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship. The pupil worship group speak with enthusiasm about the positive difference they make to worship in school. Through worship, pupils are supported in recognising that they are unique and wonderfully made. Pupils say that worship is a time when they are close to God and they welcome the opportunity to 'place any worries into God's hands'. Staff share examples of times when worship causes them to reflect upon their own lives. It is evident that pupils and staff at St Peter's are flourishing as a result of inclusive and inspirational worship.

St Peter's has a rich and engaging curriculum for RE. Leaders and staff recognise the importance of RE reaching beyond theology into philosophy and human sciences. Curriculum planning is therefore carefully sequenced within these three areas. Leaders are working to include EYFS provision within their RE curriculum guide. This will enable teachers to have a comprehensive understanding of the strong foundations being laid for future learning. As a result of creative and highly effective provision, pupils have a deep understanding of Christianity as a living faith. They demonstrate a thirst for knowledge about a wide range of religions and worldviews. Pupils particularly enjoy learning about people from a range of religious backgrounds who have 'changed the world' through the living out of their faith. Pupils share ways in which their thinking in RE has been challenged by both their peers and staff.

The transformational impact of this school's deeply-rooted Christian vision is tangible. Leaders and staff open their doors wide to lovingly serve the community of Hixon. In doing so, they are changing lives and equipping pupils to be agents of change for the future.

Information			
School	Hixon St Peter's Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	18 May 2023
URN	142447	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	228
MAT/Federation	Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Charlotte Pilkington		
Chair of Governors	Richard Saunders		
Inspector	Katie Savage	No.	2140