

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Church Lench Church of England First School

Vision

'For with God nothing is impossible' Luke 1:37

Church Lench Church of England First 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 is a golden thread that inspires and unites each aspect of this Church school. As a result, it has a transformational impact on the lives of pupils and adults because 'nothing is impossible'.
- Religious education (RE) is effectively led and taught. Pupils demonstrate impressive knowledge and understanding of RE topics. They articulate their understanding with confidence, respect and insight.
- Inclusion of pupils and their families is exemplary. Staff adapt the curriculum and teaching to meet pupils' needs. This enables them to overcome any barriers. The impact of this provision is life changing.
- Collective worship contributes to pupils and adults' spiritual development in providing opportunities to reflect and discuss school values. These are then lived out further in the classroom and beyond.
- Church Lench is built on a foundation of togetherness where everyone matters. Pupils and adults are deeply valued as individuals and feel respected, trusted and loved. As a result, relationships at all levels are exceptional. There is a tangible sense of pride about belonging to this school.

Development Points

- Equip pupils with the language to articulate their spirituality and spiritual experiences with greater depth and clarity. This is to enable them to reflect more meaningfully on their own spiritual development and its impact on their lives.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The shared Christian vision and associated values underpin every aspect in this school, uniting the community. It is readily voiced that the Christian vision and values have a transformational impact on daily life at Church Lench. Lives are changed through bold decisions made by leaders and governors directly linked to the vision. Staff, governors and pupils expertly articulate the language of the vision, and it drives every decision. As a direct result, adults and pupils, including those who are vulnerable, feel deeply valued and flourish. They thrive in a school where 'nothing is impossible'. The vision drives and inspires a deeply rooted, richly inclusive culture of love and aspiration for all. Aspiration is promoted and seen in action. Leaders have developed a harmonious staff team, where morale is extremely high. Governors are exceptionally proactive and know the school well. They deploy their role to both support and challenge effectively. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation ensure that the needs of the pupils are being met. The Christian vision is at the heart of school improvement.

Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision shapes an ambitious, inspirational and inclusive curriculum. The school radiates high aspirations across its community. The curriculum and teaching are sensitively adapted to support pupils with additional needs. Every effort is taken to overcome barriers to learning. Leaders' relentless determination to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged changes lives for the better. The trust, of which the school is a member, embeds a culture of collaboration and shared practice. This enriches and sustains the school's Christian character. Church Lench is central in the sharing of its aspirational, vision-driven practice with schools within the trust. Staff are supported to succeed, with individuals' strengths nurtured and developed. Pupils engage with all that the school offers. This has a far-reaching impact on their academic and personal development. Enrichment experiences and the wider curriculum widen pupils' horizons and enrich their spiritual journey. Engaging in these opportunities cultivates a sense of independence, enhances communication skills and boosts self-belief. Opportunities for spiritual moments are woven through the curriculum. However, pupils' ability to articulate spiritual experiences is in the early stages of development. This limits their capacity to express their own spiritual growth and understanding.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship provides opportunities to gather, reaffirming the school's vision and values through stories, prayer and song. These bring moments of peace and calm. Worship is a cherished part of each day. Pupils appreciate coming together with staff and their peers. This instils a strong sense of community. Prayer, stillness and moments of personal reflection are important to staff and pupils. Inspirational hymns and songs bring joy to those present. Links with the local church are strong and supportive. Clergy ensure that the vision is a starting point for engaging with the pupils. The school community visit the church regularly for worship and learning, making it a familiar building where pupils feel 'at home.' Members of the church community are a regular presence in school. This partnership enriches the school's worship life. A beautiful central interactive prayer space allows pupils to share and display prayers and reflections. Combined, these approaches have a positive impact on pupils' spiritual flourishing.

Vision and School Culture

The tangible culture of being proud to belong to Church Lench permeates school life. Leaders believe that safety and happiness come first. This creates a harmonious atmosphere of love and kindness. Relationships, built on respect at all levels are exceptionally strong. Pupils demonstrate respectful and caring behaviour towards one another. Older pupils guide and support younger ones, modelling kindness, empathy and responsibility. A recent senior games afternoon brought residents from the local community and pupils together to play board games. Bonds between different age groups were strengthened and inclusivity was promoted. Staff are supported with their mental health and wellbeing. Professional development is a key focus, with staff encouraged to innovate,



leading to a strong sense of empowerment. As a result, they feel highly valued and are enabled to thrive both personally and professionally.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils are empowered to use the vision 'for nothing is impossible' for the good of others. The school's inclusive ethos is rooted in the Christian belief that every person is valued and made in the image of God. Pupils demonstrate respect for others' rights, beliefs and traditions through their behaviour towards each other. They engage with issues of justice and responsibility through the curriculum and worship. Pupils are motivated to be agents of change. They wrote to the local council requesting two more bins for the village after doing a litter pick. Their understanding of ethical responsibility is being developed through charitable events. Pupils also give generously to the local food bank. They have a deep understanding of injustice and can give many examples from around the world. They talk enthusiastically about their efforts to make a difference to those less fortunate who live further afield. For example, fundraising to buy two toilets, one in Congo and one in Zimbabwe. They show considerable compassion and love for those in need. There is a deep commitment to equity and justice. Pupils embrace a wide range of leadership roles, such as acting on the eco-committee or being head boy or girl. These enable them to live out Christian character virtues, and they find personal fulfilment in having the responsibility.

Religious Education

RE has a high status across all year groups. It is a priority for leaders and teachers. The curriculum is sequenced appropriately to ensure progression of skills over time. Units of work focus on answering big questions. These enable pupils to hold informed and balanced discussions about worldviews, religions and beliefs. They explore their own ideas and learn to evaluate the opinions of others. RE lessons provide a space for pupils to ask questions confidently and freely discuss their understanding and learning. Pupils give pertinent examples of how their learning in RE helps to enhance their understanding of the world. They see this as crucial to promoting respect and tolerance. Pupils are rightly proud of their work. RE books further highlight the challenging and relevant curriculum. This includes an understanding of Christianity as a diverse global faith. Leaders work meticulously to continually develop the curriculum. This work is ably supported by diocesan training and guidance.

Information

Address	Main Street, Church Lench, Evesham, WR11 4UE		
Date	25 June 2026	URN	151572
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	70
Diocese	Worcester		
MAT	New Education Trust		
MAT CEO	David Coache		
Headteacher	Sam Price		
Chair of Governors	Martin Fairhurst		
Inspector	Kerry Geddis		