

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hutchinson Memorial Church of England First School, Checkley	
Address	Uttoxeter Road, Checkley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 4NB
School vision	
<p>‘Love one another as I have loved you’ John 13: 34</p> <p>At Hutchinson Memorial, our Christian foundations are at the heart of all that we do. We strive for every child to be resilient, adaptable and to flourish in an ever-changing world, through an inspiring, enriched curriculum. Our vision is to provide a happy, loving, nurturing school where we ignite a passion for learning and an ambition for everyone to fulfil their hopes and dreams</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision, deeply rooted in the Bible and the school's history, empowers this highly effective Church school. It binds the community in a singularity of purpose that supports adults and pupils to flourish. Leaders at all levels ensure that the vision and associated values nurture the experiences of all. • Loving relationships are a palpable strength of this school community. The words of Jesus to 'love one another' are at its heart. As a result, all are treated with compassion and kindness and supported in both good and challenging times. • Inspirational collective worship provides a place of spiritual flourishing for all. • There is a strong sense of the importance of relationships and partnerships both within, and outside of the school. A variety of interactions provide mutual and substantial benefit to the school as a Church school. • Religious education (RE) is well-planned and relevant. Pupils respond to good teaching with positive and purposeful attitudes to learning. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrich the RE curriculum so that pupils can explore religions and worldviews with greater clarity and depth. • Develop a more rigorous system to identify how and what pupils are learning in RE. This is to enable greater development of reflective skills and subject knowledge. • Ensure there is a shared understanding of spirituality so that all can speak of it in a meaningful way. This is so that spiritual flourishing can be enhanced. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision, rooted in Jesus’ command to ‘love one another’ is the focus for all at Hutchinson Memorial. This, and the historic foundation of the school to provide an aspirational education based on Christian principles, drives its work. The vision is seamlessly woven through all areas of school life. It underpins the positive relationships and nurturing environment which permeates throughout. Consequently, there is a deep-rooted culture of nurture, compassion and aspiration. The associated values are the means by which the vision is lived out. Pupils understand</p>	

the interconnectedness of these because they are woven together in pairs. Kindness and forgiveness, determination and courage being examples. As one pupil commented, 'showing kindness means you are ready to forgive.' The vision guides leaders' actions and decisions and its impact is carefully monitored. Governors are inspired by the vision that has 'love at its heart.' They are passionate about the school being a place where all are enabled to 'be the best they can be.' Carefully planned actions, resulting from monitoring, ensure Hutchinson Memorial is constantly developing on its journey as a Church school.

Strong and effective partnerships with the diocese and the Uttoxeter Learning Trust (ULT) provides valued support for the school. The trust fully upholds the school living out its distinctive Christian vision. This is seen in support for bespoke training being given by the diocese. Meetings for staff in Church schools, facilitated by the trust, provide opportunities for collaborative working. This is alongside events for pupils giving them experiences they might not otherwise have in a small rural school. These include visits and extra-curricular activities, as well as festival celebrations. All are encouraged to be aspirational through the bespoke curriculum across schools in the trust. Staff expertly devise creative, academic and enriching experiences, building resilience and a passion for learning. One pupil reflected that learning is 'exciting and brilliant – I want to go on learning more.' Pupils flourish spiritually through the curriculum because adults provide planned and spontaneous opportunities for them to think beyond themselves. This might be in relation to God or to the wider world. However, there is not yet a language of spirituality that is understood and expressed by all.

Inspired by the biblically rooted vision leaders have created a highly effective culture where all are treated well. Parents, staff and pupils speak of the importance of being a nurturing 'family' which fosters a powerful sense of togetherness. Caring relationships and high standards of behaviour illustrate this. All pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are known as the unique person they are. Everyone being enabled to fulfil their hopes and dreams is made a reality through the love and care shown to all. Staff and pupils benefit from leaders intentionally prioritising their wellbeing. Actions to actively consider workload and support when facing personal challenges, means staff feel cared for and nurtured. Opportunities are readily available for them to develop professionally and to be aspirational. This is highly valued.

Collective worship has clear impact on the lives of pupils and adults. Staff describe how this daily gathering uplifts them and provides meaningful moments of calm. This enriches their own spirituality. Close partnerships with the local Anglican church are a strength. They support the worship life of the school. Church and school are seen by many, as one. This is because the vicar regularly leads worship in school and church, building strong relationships with pupils, their families and staff. Due to its close link with school, parents feel welcomed at church whenever they attend. Bible stories are brought to life through drama in the 'Open the Book' gatherings. These provide welcomed opportunities for pupils to retell stories with members of local churches. Pupils describe how this is enjoyable to be part of and helps them to think deeply about the stories. Staff know their pupils well. They provide sensitive support and encouragement regardless of ability. Consequently, all have opportunity to engage in worship. A Christian youth worker, employed by local churches and supported by the ULT, works with pupil worship leaders. They flourish spiritually because they are guided in reflections on themes and Bible stories, considering the impact on their own lives. This results in them leading inspirational worship for the school community. Reflecting on elements of the creation story, worship leaders focus on God's voice calling good things into being. All pupils in worship are then challenged to consider the good things they might call into being through their voice. Worship is a clear expression of the Christian vision because it directly impacts on the way pupils are inspired to love others. This leads them to take action. Examples that pupils highlight include showing forgiveness to others and planning an event to support a local charity for the homeless. One pupil commented, 'God loves people and us, so we must love others too.'

RE is well-taught, and pupils learn in a calm and purposeful environment. They can relate their learning in RE to their own lives and experiences. This is because they are supported to confidently ask and answer questions and take part in reflective activities. The RE curriculum is broad and varied, encompassing Christianity and a range of religions and worldviews. Planning is detailed, presenting a well-balanced, relevant and diverse curriculum, however pupils' knowledge and understanding lacks depth and clarity. RE work is showcased in class 'floorbooks'. Pupils are proud of their work but they do not always know what they need to do to improve. This is because formal assessing of pupil progress and attainment is not fully embedded.

The Christian vision at Hutchinson Memorial Church of England First School drives and guides all aspects of school life. It is deeply embedded, providing a place where all know what it means to be loved and to love. This enriches the lives of pupils and adults and ensures that all can flourish.

The inspection findings indicate that Hutchinson Memorial Church of England First School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	23 November 2023	URN	143983
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	75
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	Uttoxeter Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Paula Snee		
Chair	Victoria Bennet		
Inspector	Jane Lewis	No.	27