



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Manifold Church of England Academy	
Address	Off Leek Road, Warslow, Buxton, SK17 0JP

School vision

'With faith and hope, take flight and flourish'.
 'But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.' Isaiah 40:31
 'I have many talents. I can spread my wings. I can take flight. I can soar like an eagle. I can help others to fly. I can lead the way and because of this, I flourish.'

School strengths

- The Christian vision of the school reflects the experiences of its pupils. It promotes a caring ethos where they feel safe and supported. This leads to positive relationships throughout the community, enabling them to flourish.
- Motivated by a vision of hope, the curriculum inspires a love of learning. This means that pupils thrive in stimulating lessons.
- Strong partnerships with the Diocese of Lichfield and the local church have sparked imaginative planning for collective worship. This provides opportunities for self-expression and shared celebration.
- In response to the Christian vision, respect permeates the school community. The wellbeing and mental health of its members is prioritised. As a result, pupils live well together, showing care and compassion for each other.
- An effective curriculum in religious education (RE) is well balanced and sequenced. This provides pupils with a wide appreciation of diverse culture and faith.

Areas for development

- Deepen an understanding of the Christian vision amongst the whole school community. This is so that the significance of its meaning impacts on pupils.
- Expand the monitoring of the RE curriculum. This is so that pupils are challenged by deep questions that develop their knowledge and personal expression.
- Review the experience of worship in providing time for reflection. This is to generate the opportunity for spiritual development to grow.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision of Manifold Church of England Academy is designed around the needs and ambitions of its pupils. Leaders have ensured that it is based on biblical teaching that is relevant to its context. Thorough collaboration between leaders and teachers enables pupils to flourish as the vision is explored. The school is now part of the Moorlands Primary Federation. This has sustained the school's unique vision, enabling it to be effective. As a rural primary school, the federation provides a wider community, increasing interaction with others. This expands an understanding of

diversity. The key values of faith and hope are often promoted by teachers. As a result, determination and resilience is evident in lessons, fulfilling the vision to 'soar on wings like eagles'. A culture of care and compassion exists with older pupils supporting younger ones. This shows the respect they have for each other. A period of change in leadership and federation has occurred. As a result, a deeper understanding of the significance of the vision is not fully established.

An appreciation of God-given talents in its vision, drives the creation of the school's curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to develop their gifts through active learning. A focus on inspirational people in lessons provides effective role models. A wide collection of texts in the library promotes personalities from diverse backgrounds. School leaders appreciate the importance of preparation for life beyond the rural community within multi-cultural Britain. Teachers know their pupils very well. This means they can direct learning tasks specifically, through inclusive support. They also appreciate how skills such as computing are applied in farming. Although a clear definition of spirituality is not established, there are opportunities for reflection. This makes subject knowledge relevant to life experiences. The expansive school building and grounds allow places for motivation and reflection. Inter-school theme days bring learning to life. Pupils share the excitement of learning about St. George's Day when they dress in costumes. Successful extra-curricular activities provide spiritual experiences so that self-belief grows. Collaborative work with other schools in the federation provides inspiration for new activities. Trust leaders monitor learning thoroughly and provide extensive training. This ensures that the curriculum vision leads to flourishing.

The provision of collective worship is carefully planned and reviewed. This enables pupils to gain a deeper understanding of Christian values throughout the year. A dedicated room provides a place for stillness and prayer. This instills a strong appreciation of the significance of respect when entering. Members of the worship council take pride in making this space special. Support from the Diocese of Lichfield has strengthened the provision. Leaders ensure that it is inclusive, and a range of adults are well trained and confident. A weekly 'wild worship' takes place outside. This allows everyone to appreciate the beauty of their surroundings in God's creation and develops spirituality. Prayer is recognised as an important aspect of worship. Pupils are invited to take part and write their own. Regular visits to the local Church encourage spiritual growth in the celebration of festivals. Members of the Church also visit the school, strengthening links between them and families. Parents enjoy invitations to attend worship, as awards are presented for following values. However, planning for worship does not provide sufficient time for reflection. This means that opportunities for the spiritual growth of pupils and adults is limited.

The Christian vision guides leaders in promoting the mental health and wellbeing of everyone. Adults build strong links with each individual and support families through acts of compassion and care. Annual mental health week promotes Christian values in living well together. Pupils receive support through times of anxiety, for example they make worry dolls to help them. Adults also feel supported by leaders and members of the federation. They are nurtured and encouraged in their work. This results in pupils also feeling happy and welcome at school, where there is a strong appreciation of respect. Behaviour is impressive, but when issues occur, adults take restorative approaches. This results in positive relationships throughout the school. Leaders quickly recognise challenges that may be faced and use funding to support the most vulnerable. This ensures that basic needs are met. A weekly newsletter is well received by parents who feel involved in the school community. A highly effective Parents Association raises money to support various learning experiences, such as trips. Therefore, a supportive community encircles pupils, enabling them to thrive.

Plentiful opportunities are provided for pupils to take responsibility in school. This enriches their learning as they contribute to decision-making activities. The school council plans how to raise money through charity events. They also consider the impact they have on the local and national

community. Curriculum planning identifies 'global goals' so that a deeper understanding about injustice is explored. This motivates them to write letters about topical issues. They actively support charities, particularly those that help children around the world. Leaders set an example as they acknowledge how people feel isolated in their community. Events are organised to bring them together. For example, all residents are invited to see Christmas plays. Encouraged by the school vision, pupils lead the way as they live out Christian values.

In creating a religious education (RE) curriculum, leaders have interacted with advisers from the diocese. In doing this, the topics covered deepen a knowledge of key Christian beliefs. The curriculum also successfully addresses diversity in multi-cultural Britain. Sequenced learning ensures that they build on their knowledge. Pupils show enthusiasm for RE lessons. They provide a safe space to explore faiths and worldviews. Parents share how pupils enjoy discussing links in learning such as Diya lamps and Hindu festivals. Visits to places of worship in Derby provide first-hand experiences that enrich their understanding of faith. However, the monitoring of RE is not sufficiently rigorous. There are not enough opportunities to examine philosophy and big questions. This means that pupils are limited in being able to explore and express their own beliefs that would aid their spiritual growth.

The inspection findings indicate that Manifold Church of England Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	24 April 2024	URN	142275
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	44
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	The Moorlands Primary Federation		
Executive Principal	Kelly Stanesby		
Chair	Nick Chesters		
Inspector	Keith Farquhar	No.	2143