

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Stoke Minster Church of England Primary Academy

Vision

Just like the mustard tree, we offer a place of safety and nurture where everyone is welcomed and treated with respect. Our vision is for all in our care to achieve their God given potential believing that with faith, hope, and love in our hearts we will grow and flourish.

Stoke Minster Church of England Primary Academy 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 deeply embedded and theologically rooted Christian vision fosters a harmonious and loving community. Pupils and adults flourish because their unique talents are nurtured and celebrated.
- Driven by the aspirational vision for every pupil and adult to 'achieve their God given potential', leaders create a strong culture of care and inclusion. Staff and pupils feel supported and valued. This significantly impacts on the good mental health and wellbeing of the Stoke Minster community.
- Collective worship is varied, welcoming, inclusive and contributes to spiritual growth. Pupils engage and joyfully participate in singing worship songs, prayer and reflection.
- Leaders have carefully crafted a curriculum for religious education (RE) that is bespoke for the diverse and multicultural context of Stoke Minster. It enhances pupils' knowledge and understanding of a range of worldviews and religions, including Christianity.
- The school's vision shapes a curriculum offer that is inclusive and engaging. Reflecting the school ethos and supporting the Christian values, it brings opportunities for pupils and adults to be cherished and flourish together.

Development Points

- Embed the recently developed shared approach to spirituality. This is so that pupils can recognise, deepen and explore their own and others' spiritual experiences.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Stoke Minster Church of England Primary Academy is an oasis of hope in an area that has many challenges. The carefully chosen Christian vision reflects the school's place as a safe haven for the pupils and families it serves. The vision radiates through every aspect of daily life and drives leader's decisions and actions. The underpinning values of faith, hope, love and flourish shape an ethos where diversity, difference and inclusivity are celebrated. A caring approach ensures that individuals and families are known and valued for who they are. The nurturing culture enables pupils, including those deemed to be vulnerable, to access the full breadth of school life. The vision aligns closely to that of St Bart's Multi Academy Trust promoting a close, purposeful partnership and clear direction. Pupils are placed at the centre of everything the school and trust do. As a result, leaders are highly committed to pupils and staff succeeding and flourishing. Strong partnerships with the trust and diocese enrich Stoke Minster's work. These collaborations provide staff with a wide range of professional development that enhances and enriches the school's Christian distinctiveness. The vision fosters a supportive and inclusive community that enables pupils and staff to flourish and thrive.

Vision and Curriculum

Inspired by the vision, leaders have created an ambitious curriculum that matches the pupils' needs and the school's context. The embedded Christian values are a golden thread throughout each subject. Bespoke adaptations ensure that pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are given the opportunity to reach their God given potential. Great care is taken to support and nurture those who may be vulnerable, ensuring that they, too, can thrive. Curriculum enrichment is strong and leaders prioritise pupils considered to be vulnerable for these opportunities. Pupil's interests and achievements are nurtured and celebrated through an impressively wide range of learning experiences, clubs and trips. Through the use of big questions and the 'in out up' triangle, pupils are beginning to explore their own spiritual development. However, this is in the early stages of development and is not consistently embedded across all subjects.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a valued and joyful time of gathering together, sharing and reflection. Meaningful opportunities enable pupils to consider life application through stories from the Bible. For example, the parable of the Good Samaritan resonates strongly with pupils. It inspires them to show kindness, treat others with compassion and make wise decisions in daily life. Collective worship helps pupils to grow spiritually by encouraging reflection, sharing stories, praying together and singing with joy. These experiences build a sense of celebration and belonging. Pupils take roles in worship, sharing talents and growing leadership attributes, which they readily model to others. This inclusive approach cultivates a welcoming atmosphere in which pupils and adults feel able to express their authentic selves. Digital worship is a key feature for schools within the trust. Recorded worships, led by schools are shared. They unite the St Bart's community in scripture, song and prayer, enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. The development of a shared understanding and language for spirituality is beginning to help the school community recognise and express their responses. However, pupils are not able to fully understand and acknowledge their own and others' spiritual experiences.

Vision and School Culture

Inspired by the vision, leaders create a caring and inclusive culture where pupils feel safe, supported and ready to learn. Staff help pupils to build respectful relationships through calm, thoughtful support that encourages kindness and trust. As a result, they grow in confidence and know that they are valued. Provision for pupils with additional needs is tailored with care. Leaders identify pupils' needs accurately and provide support so that they can settle into school life, feel confident and succeed. Calm spaces and sensitive adult responses help pupils to continue learning when things feel difficult. Leaders build strong relationships with families. They take time to understand their needs and offer relevant support to enable them to flourish. As



a result, pupils and their families feel valued and treasured members of the Stoke Minster community. Leaders prioritise staff wellbeing. They are supportive and offer practical help and access to high-quality training. As a result, adults feel confident and valued in their roles. They work together effectively to uphold the school's inclusive ethos and strengthen pupils' wellbeing.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Leaders have established a culture of shared responsibility, where pupils have a voice and are listened to. They are trusted to take on various responsibilities as they progress through the school, such as chaplains and worship leaders. This means they have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the life and work of the school. Opportunities to meet with other pupil leaders from across the trust further develops their skills in these roles. Through the curriculum, pupils explore how to care for God's creation and make ethical choices. For example, pupils in key stage one learn about ocean pollution and the effects of litter on the beach. There is also a strong focus on local community projects such as 'tidy my town' which the school are involved in. As a result, pupils are confident and have a deep understanding of responsibility and the difference they can make. Church links contribute to spiritual growth, valuing the school's role in Christian calendar events and praise opportunities. Local clergy, alongside the Lichfield Diocese, enrich collective worship and RE. As a result of these partnerships, pupils confidently apply their understanding of faith to their daily lives and wider community.

Religious Education

As a result of strong and skilled leadership of RE, the subject has a high profile and is both valued and enjoyed by pupils. Leaders ensure that the curriculum provides a strong balance between teaching about Christianity and a range of religions and worldviews. The RE curriculum choices have been positively influenced by the rich and diverse school community. Using creative approaches, it is well-sequenced and offers pupils challenging, relevant and varied content. This ensures that they can build on prior knowledge. The curriculum is successful in engaging and motivating pupils. They speak enthusiastically about this subject in which they 'grow closer to people who are different to us' through what they learn. Opportunities for visits to places of worship and visitors of faith sharing their religious experiences further enrich studies. Governors know about RE through detailed headteacher's reports. As a result, they are well-informed about the subject and can provide strategic support to make certain it is well-resourced.

Teaching in RE is strong, enabling pupils to achieve well. Lessons offer a safe place to discuss wide ranging issues and viewpoints. This empowers pupils to explore their own beliefs while appreciating those of others. Work on tablets, along with photographs, videos and voice recordings capture a range of learning experiences. They demonstrate pupils' increasingly deep understanding of religion. Regular, high-quality training and support for the subject is provided by the trust and diocese. This enables teachers to grow in their confidence to teach RE well, and build on their own understanding over time.

Information

Address	Boothem Old Road, Stoke on Trent, ST4 4EE		
Date	29 June 2026	URN	144592
Type of school	Primary Academy	No. of pupils	343
Diocese	Lichfield		
MAT/Federation	St Bart's Multi Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	Johnny Anderson		
Headteacher	Jennifer Craig		
Chair of Governors	Jeremy Evans		
Inspector	Rebecca Walker		