

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Audlem St James' CofE Primary School	
Address	Heathfield Road, Audlem, Crewe, CW3 0HH
School vision	
<p>At Audlem we embrace the adventure of learning, encouraging everyone to step out further, thinking more deeply and becoming more understanding. Inspired by our Christian values, we are developing our skills, our courage and our wisdom to achieve beyond expectations and become successful learners, caring citizens and confident individuals. Through God's love, we are nurtured, we are inspired and we shine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is well established and articulated clearly by school and trust leaders. Pupils understand how they can let their light shine within the community. The vision enables pupils and adults to flourish in a supportive and loving community. • A genuine passion for being agents for change is evident in the school community. This culminates with social action and makes a palpable difference in the local village. • Collective worship provides calm, reflective opportunities for personal spirituality. The school's Christian vision and shared values are embedded in inclusive worship that is invitational and beneficial for all. • The Christian vision is lived out through the strong support for the wellbeing of all members of the school community. As a result, everyone lives together well and is lovingly cared for. • Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established an improved curriculum that is well sequenced and balanced. It develops knowledge and understanding of major religions and encourages a tolerance for all. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the school's shared language of spirituality. This is so that all pupils and adults can readily articulate and share their experiences, therefore enriching spiritual flourishing for the whole community. • To develop through the wider curriculum pupils' knowledge of Christianity as a living and diverse global faith. • Building on the understanding that pupils gain through the curriculum, continue to develop their role as courageous advocates nationally and globally. This is to give them greater opportunities to be agents of change beyond the school. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The school's aspirational Christian vision, underpinned by a rich theological narrative, is at the heart of all aspects of school life. It is inspired by Jesus' words in the 'sermon on the mount'. As a result, leaders aspire for the school, set on a hill, to be a shining light for the community. Passionate</p>	

leadership and strong partnerships enable the school to be a beacon of light both locally and in the wider community. Staff and pupils are able to articulate how they 'let their light shine' with a tangible impact on the local community. Governors' robust self-evaluation ensures that Church school life is continually developing. Staff and governors actively engage in relevant Church school training with the Diocese of Chester. This further strengthens their understanding of an effective Church school. As a result, the vision successfully drives improvement priorities, leading to successful school development.

The school is a valued member of the Cornovii Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). The MAT's vision for high expectations resonates with the school's vision while allowing them to maintain their Christian individuality. Staff embrace and value successful collaboration with other trust schools. Audlem St James supports the MAT in developing spirituality in some community schools. The school's associated values inspire all to be the best version of themselves. Pupils share the importance of knowing joy which helps them to have hope. They show love towards one another through deliberate acts of compassion. As a result, both pupils and adults are able to flourish. Subject leaders ensure that the curriculum incorporates opportunities to reflect the school's vision. All members of the community understand the high expectations impressed upon them. Pupils and staff are able to articulate how they are encouraged to develop their skills. They confidently share how success for all pupils is celebrated. It is clear that everyone understands the importance of caring for one another. This helps to nurture confidence in learning for all.

Pupils value worship in their school. It provides many opportunities for them to develop spiritually through listening to Bible stories, singing and reflection. A diverse, inclusive programme is used to emphasise respect for all and encourages tolerance for faith and belief of all world religions. Classroom prayer, reflection spaces and collective worship nurture pupils' understanding of the Christian faith. Older pupils enjoy participating in leading worship. They plan worship and lead singing. Pupils speak enthusiastically about roundabout worship. This is a weekly opportunity to think deeply and discuss an aspect of worship that has been previously experienced. All pupils participate in discussion where opinion is valued and respected. Staff and pupils appreciate the time to ponder on theological ideas. Attractive displays around the school deepen spirituality by prompting reflection. Leaders have developed outdoor reflection areas in which pupils may explore prayer and quiet contemplation during break times. Whilst there are various opportunities available for spiritual development, pupils and adults are not able to discuss their understanding of spirituality with confidence.

The wellbeing of every member of the school community is a high priority. Both school and trust leaders understand the challenges to mental health and the impact that this can have on pupil progress. The headteacher ensures that staff expertise in this area is secure through training. As a result, pupils are able to express the importance of valuing themselves and others, thus enabling all to flourish. Parents find staff 'very approachable' and staff value being part of a supportive team. Pupils' awareness of diversity is enhanced through a variety of educational resources used in curriculum areas such as religious education, geography and literacy. This provides pupils with a clear understanding of the rich culture that exists beyond the school gates. The study of world faiths is clearly evident in curriculum planning. An Interfaith Week was highly effective in raising pupils' awareness and understanding. Consequently, pupils are able to appreciate a variety of cultures that are different from their own.

Pupils acknowledge a clear sense of justice in school and appreciate the school's behaviour policy. Restorative practice helps the pupils to understand the impact of their actions upon others. Understanding school values helps them to reach out for forgiveness when necessary. Pupils' understanding of courageous advocacy is being developed through a range of local projects. Pupils and staff, inspired by the MAT's Justice Award, work hard to raise funds for local residents. This

enables villagers with dementia to enjoy a day out in Llandudno, thus helping the village to become a 'dementia aware village'. Pupils are inspired to support the elderly within the village. Consequently, they worked with a school staff member to provide flowers and plants for individuals. This act of kindness has helped Audlem to be recognised as a 2023 finalist by Britain in Bloom. More importantly, it shows pupils understand that social action can make a difference in the lives of people. Motivated from learning about Water Aid, pupils have instigated an exploration as to how they can support global communities and become agents for change abroad. However, this is still in its developmental stage.

RE makes an important contribution to the Christian character of the school. The school's updated and improved curriculum reflects a good quality curriculum enabling all to learn. Staff receive training to secure a solid understanding of the curriculum. The RE lead has introduced 'Understanding Christianity' resources to complement the local scheme. Staff are currently developing the curriculum to include the teaching of Christianity as a living and diverse world faith. This ensures that pupils gain fundamental theological knowledge. Staff use their skills and ideas to invite pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider big questions. RE allows pupils to consider identity, diversity and difference, within a framework characterised by tolerance and mutual respect. A range of activities and open-ended questions provoke pupils to examine the importance of belief and faith for others and themselves. As a result, pupils are able to sensitively reflect on learning and demonstrate a respect for all faiths.

Audlem St James has high expectations for all and, inspired by the sermon on the mount, endeavours to let its light shine brightly through all that it does.

The inspection findings indicate that Audlem St James' Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	4 December 2023	URN	148489
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	181
Diocese	Chester		
MAT/Federation	Cornovii Trust		
Headteacher	Andrew Perry		
Chair	Alison Rayne		
Inspector	Anna Brooksbank	No.	974