

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Tushingham-with-Grindley Church of England Primary School	
Address	Tushingham, Whitchurch, Cheshire. SY13 4QS

School vision

At Tushingham-with-Grindley we provide every child with a loving, caring environment where each pupil feels safe, respected and valued. Encouraged by a supportive family ethos and Christian worship which teaches of God's unconditional love, pupils are determined, ambitious learners, each feeling nurtured as they strive to fulfil their potential. Our Christian ethos and curriculum are interwoven so as to teach children empathy and compassion for others, whilst giving them knowledge, thoughts, actions and attitudes for themselves that guide them to make a positive impact in the world, both now and in the future.

Learning together and worshipping together.

'Let us love one another for love is from God'.

1 John 4:7

School strengths

- The Christian vision of the school is highly effective. This enables pupils and adults to feel supported and encourages an ethos of positive action. An excellent approach to wellbeing, behaviour management and equality of opportunity allows pupils to flourish.
- Motivated by the vision for pupils to make a positive impact in the world, an inspiring curriculum has been generated. Leaders collaborate with staff to ensure that they understand the needs of pupils well and this has a positive impact on their success.
- Collective worship is planned and delivered by adults and pupils, with love and respect at the heart of its direction. This enables pupils to be encouraged as change makers and grow spiritually as they live out the school's vision and values.
- The school successfully supports good mental health and ensures that the wellbeing of pupils and adults is maintained. This demonstrates the school's vision to 'love one another, as love is from God.'
- Careful planning by knowledgeable leaders ensures that religious education (RE) is effective. The curriculum motivates pupils and it has a high profile on the timetable. The variety of religious and non-religious views studied enables pupils to grow in their understanding of faith and diversity.

Areas for development

- Embed further opportunities for spiritual development into curriculum planning. This is so that pupils grow through rich experiences and leaders are able to evaluate their impact.
- Build more opportunities into the RE curriculum for pupils to reflect on their learning. This is to deepen their understanding even further.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision at Tushingham-with-Grindley Church of England Primary School is highly effective through the love, care and compassion that is shown in its community. Through an understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus, pupils worship and learn well together. Parents share how the vision is a golden thread that runs through the school. Communication with families is a key strength and provides consistency, enabling pupil needs to be addressed effectively. Through the development of its policies and decision making, the school refers to biblical teaching. This ensures that a culture of respect is lived out by pupils and adults. The school serves a wide catchment area. Through effective partnerships with local churches, it brings unity, where pupils belong and live well together. The school receives regular support from the Diocese of Chester and benefits from partnerships with other schools and initiatives. Leaders are dedicated to a plan of improvements to ensure pupils are well-prepared for life in the wider community. School governors monitor the effectiveness of the school vision. This ensures that it drives decision making and actions. However, governors' monitoring and evaluation of spirituality is underdeveloped. This means that some opportunities to explore the spiritual dimensions of life are missed.

In developing the school curriculum, leaders focus on the vision to inspire pupils to be determined and ambitious learners. Staff meet together regularly to review the curriculum, ensuring collaboratively that it has a positive impact on pupils. Lessons frequently begin with big questions so that pupils learn through enquiry and exploration. Pupils express their learning together, for example, through music and poetry. Motivational displays around the school demonstrate their creative talents. Outdoor learning experiences teach children about the rural setting of the school and provide an understanding of God's creation. Pupils are involved in working with adults to plan extra-curricular learning, increasing opportunities to demonstrate responsibility. The varying needs of pupils are considered in the school's broad and inclusive curriculum. This is reviewed regularly by leaders to ensure that it is continually effective. The school invests well in adult support and training, which enables pupils at all levels to succeed in the classroom. However, spiritual development is not fully explored in all areas of the curriculum. This limits experiences for pupils to reflect and apply learning to their lives.

Collective worship has a positive impact within the school. There are links with several local churches, which provide a wide variety of worship experiences for pupils. Leaders work closely with pupil ambassadors to plan worship that focuses on the vision and values of the school. Worship is invitational. All pupils and adults are welcomed to participate through singing and prayer. Times of reflection and response enable pupils and adults to grow spiritually together. Planned worship activities are inclusive and, through good communication with church leaders, are clearly accessible. Pupils openly discuss how they have been motivated to act. For example, pupils share how a focus on forgiveness in worship positively changed behaviour when playing football. This demonstrates the impact of what they learn and how they share the vision of God's love with others. Regular opportunities are created for children to contribute, sharing Bible stories together and performing in role-play. This is an outworking of the vision, where pupils show empathy and compassion.

The importance of being treated well is central to the vision of the school. Great care is taken to ensure pupils feel safe and valued. A strong, shared ethos of respect is encapsulated in a vision called the 'Tushingham Way'. Parents speak fondly about how positive this is in building relationships at home. This demonstrates the impact of the school's vision as a loving, caring environment. There is a strong focus on support for vulnerable pupils. The social and emotional needs of pupils are discussed at the beginning of staff meetings, emphasising the vision of love and care as a priority. Staff generously meet the needs of pupils, for example, providing costumes for plays and organising additional lunch clubs to enable equity for all. Pupils with learning needs are assessed with compassion and bespoke resources ensure they can fulfil their potential. Adults also

live well together, supporting wellbeing through kindness and compassion that flows from the school vision. The high priority of creating a caring culture leads to pupils and adults feeling valued.

Pupils are challenged through the curriculum and worship to understand the complexity of life beyond the local community. They appreciate the work of charities, and many choose to raise awareness, as well as money, in support. One close link with a charity enables pupils to appreciate God's love in action, where aid and care are provided by planes to remote communities across the world. Visitors from different cultures, such as Uganda, enable pupils to understand diversity and prepare them for life in the wider community. Opportunities are created to discuss issues of injustice and pupils consider how they can make a difference. Encouraged by a pupil team of 'value leaders', many others are inspired to become change makers. For example, children give gifts to local food banks. Such actions are regularly celebrated in worship, to which parents are invited. Social impact awards are presented, encouraging a love for those most in need.

The responsibility for the delivery and management of RE is taken by senior leaders, who ensure a robust programme of study exists. They have crafted a curriculum that progressively develops greater knowledge and understanding. The diocese provides support and training that aids the effectiveness of the subject. The school also shares its good practice with others. Regular reviews of previous learning strengthen confidence in pupils as they meet new challenges. The curriculum provides occasional opportunities for pupils to reflect on their own achievements. Where this is effective, pupils grow as learners. The curriculum blends aspects of the local syllabus with other relevant, national resources. This ensures that there is a diverse study of religion and worldviews. Pupils enjoy learning in this subject, particularly through debate. They appreciate why it supports an understanding of the world around them.

The inspection findings indicate that Tushingam-with-Grindley Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	7 February 2024	URN	111285
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	102
Diocese	Chester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Cathy Davies		
Chair	Jannine Davies		
Inspector	Keith Farquhar	No.	2143