

# Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

## St Edward's Church of England Academy, Leek

**Address** Westwood Road, Leek, United Kingdom, ST13 8DN

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

**Overall grade**

**Excellent**

**The impact of collective worship**

**Excellent**

**The effectiveness of religious education (RE)**

**Excellent**

### School's vision

At St Edward's Church of England Academy, we are commissioned to celebrate and support the talents and potential of all in our community (Matthew 28:12-18).  
In our Academy, we are all journeying together in order to learn through faith, grow through hope, and achieve through love (1 Corinthians 13:13), allowing all to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

### Key findings

- St Edward's summarises its vision using the chapter and verse from the gospel of John quote in its vision, 10:10. This Christian vision of being 10:10 people, drives every aspect of Saint Edward's extensively and allows all to live life in all its fullness. Whilst its inclusion in curriculum design lacks consistency, it is embraced in an extraordinary manner and in many ways. This includes relationships, conduct, displays and awards.
- Pupils flourish exceptionally through the very effective delivery of religious education (RE). This is a result of the outstanding leadership of the faculty head.
- Numerous pupils, staff and parents' transformed lives are the result of extensively creative and inspired collective worship. The Head of RE drives collective worship extremely effectively. However this limits the opportunities for other staff to take a lead in this area.
- The school's inspirational Christian leadership ensures a very effective sense of community and wellbeing. This is achieved through excellent professional development, character development and curriculum related activities inspiring compassion for God's world. However global engagement largely, though not exclusively, focuses around the Holocaust.
- Recognition of the school's exemplary commitment is seen in its its achievement of many awards which encompass and flow out of its vision. These include: UNICEF Rights Respecting School silver award; British Council International School; Archbishop of York Young Leaders' Award school. The Christian vision encompasses and promotes exceptional character development, hope and aspiration, courageous advocacy, dignity and respect extensively.

## Areas for development

- Further harmonise the Christian vision's explicit inclusion in curriculum design and content to further improve consistency.
- Expand the school's engagement in international activities, so expanding opportunities for pupils to look beyond themselves and to equip pupils to be global agents for change.
- Broaden the staff leadership of collective worship to ensure that it is seen as a whole school activity.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

## Inspection findings

The transformational effect of the 10:10 Christian vision of St Edward's in shaping decision making, policies and practice is outstanding at all levels. The Trustees have an extremely robust self-evaluation of the school's Christian distinctiveness. This ensures they know the effectiveness of their school very well, sitting fully within the 10:10 Christian vision. This results in courageous decisions that are in harmony with that vision and that transform lives. These enhance the building of Christian community, resulting in a strikingly loving and supportive culture built on the biblical root of life in all its fullness. The curriculum explicitly reflects the school's vision resulting in it being communicated effectively across all subjects. The explicit inclusion of opportunities to highlight the vision in curriculum design lacks consistency between subjects. The school leaders relate well to the Diocese of Lichfield and the wider community, enabling excellent practice to be shared across the Diocese and with other schools.

Through its 10:10 vision the school's leadership creates a highly hospitable community in which all feel safe, respected and eager to learn. This results in an outstandingly inclusive and loving community. The school extends this to extremely compassionate care for the wellbeing of all especially during the pandemic This support transforms lives. The school, under the outstanding leadership of the principal, cares exceptionally for the pastoral needs of the staff.

The 10:10 vision challenges all to ask big questions effectively. The developing global links with countries such as Kenya, Greece and Poland give all excellent opportunities to look beyond themselves, grow and flourish. Flowing from the 10:10 vision, this enables significant character development in pupils, engaging them with wider global society. Although largely focused around the historical experience of the Jewish people, this creates a dynamic, active and relentless compassion for God's world. As a result, the vision encourages pupils to think globally and consider issues of disadvantage and depravation, and what they can do about these issues. Extensive charitable activities and encouragement to challenge injustice enables pupils to engage in compassionate action and courageous advocacy. This is further enhanced by excellent curriculum coordination leading to pupils enjoying their achievements, surpassing expectations and becoming well-rounded.

The vision inspires all with a strong sense of belonging. PHSE provides effective mental health support and educates pupils about relationships in an outstanding manner. This encourages pupils to practice forgiveness and reconciliation and to treat others with dignity, cherishing themselves. As a result, along with a highly effective pastoral system, pupil conduct is exemplary. Through the Rights Respecting School approach, pupils respect and celebrate difference and diversity.

The 10:10 vision is outstanding in helping pupils who have experienced severe disadvantage in their educational journey, restoring their hope and aspiration. Given their starting points and the disruption to their education, their progress is exceptional. The vision inspires excellent pastoral care. It is put into practice by the relentless persistence of the assistant principal, the SEND coordinator, and the house leaders. The seamless, wrap around pastoral care that also embraces their families is exceptional. It serves to give specific, and unrivalled knowledge about pupils, facilitating precise and timely interventions that are highly effective. The drive to be 10:10 people, to be the best they can be, leads to detailed measures that enhance the progress of the most vulnerable and SEND pupils. These are clearly understood enabling them to make excellent progress.

The school's Christian vision ensures that the leadership enables all to grow and flourish. This is achieved through the promotion of a wide range of extra-curricular and character education activities. These allow pupils to reflect on and practically learn through faith, grow through hope and achieve through love, with notable beneficial effects.

Collective worship plays a central role in the life of the school, acting as the heartbeat of the community. This influences and transforms lives for the good of pupils and adults. Pupils enthusiastically take a lead in all aspects of collective worship. They value it highly, and see it change their lives and empower them to be agents of change. This leads to exceptional spiritual development and moves many to compassionate action and courageous advocacy. The innovative use of the Celtic worship tradition has led to a regular focus on creation care through woodland worship. Pupils are challenged about the exploitation of God's world and the importance of good stewardship. This creates pupils who are highly aware of their responsibility for the environment. A variety of indoor and outdoor spaces for collective worship inspires staff and pupils, ensuring rich spiritual growth. Staff and pupils enthusiastically engage with collective worship in creative ways. One recent example was through the use of striking artwork, in cooperation with the artist in residence, at Lichfield Cathedral. Imaginative approaches are used to promote prayer. These invite all to engage with God, themselves and with others in an extremely upbuilding way.

Leaders have implemented their unique RE curriculum which meets the needs of their pupils exceptionally well. The curriculum ensures that, alongside Christianity, major religions are explored effectively. The way pupils learn about the world nature of the Christian faith, its influence on Britain's cultural heritage and the impact of religions on society is excellent. Pupils' exemplary progress in RE confirms the effectiveness of this decision. The inspired faculty leadership in RE ensures that a relevant and theologically stimulating scheme of work delivers engaging learning experiences for pupils. This excellent practice is drawn on by other schools and the Diocese to inform and enrich their own provision. This, coupled with outstanding teaching, inspires pupils in a rich learning environment. Pupils are highly supportive of each other confirming that RE creates a safe space for debate and spiritual development. This is rightly valued significantly by pupils and parents alike. This delivery of high quality RE inspires pupils to work to build a compassionate, reflective, inclusive, supportive and transformative community with notable effect.

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|  | <b>The effectiveness of RE is</b>   | <b>Excellent</b> |
|   | <p>The high quality of teaching and learning which is consistently better than good leads to pupils making excellent progress. Due to the visionary leadership of the head of faculty, pupils, including the most able and those with SEND, consistently perform above their age-related expectations. The innovative RE curriculum challenges pupils enabling them to learn and progress exceptionally well.</p> |                  |

| Contextual information about the school                                 |  |     |        |
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| Date of inspection  | 22 June 2022                                     | URN | 139171 |
| Date of previous inspection   | 18 June 2015                                     |     |        |
| School status   | VA   | NOR | 721    |
| Name of Multi Academy Trust or Federation                               | St Edward's Church of England Academy Trust Leek |     |        |
| Diocese or Methodist Circuit  | Lichfield  |     |        |
| Headteacher   | Thomas Hutchinson                                |     |        |
| Proportion of pupils deemed to be disadvantaged                         | Below National Average                           |     |        |
| Proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities | In Line with National Average                    |     |        |
| Inspector's name  | Craig Watson                                     | No. | 0078   |