

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

| Stretton St Matthew's Church of England VA Primary School                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                              |
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| Address                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Stretton Road, Stretton, Warrington, WA4 4NT |
| School vision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                              |
| <p>Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning and provide an environment which prepares our pupils to be confident, happy citizens.</p> <p>To create and nurture a secure and caring Christian environment where every child can develop in their own faith and learning journey.</p> <p>‘Go, shine in the world and live as Jesus lived.’ Matthew 5: 14-16</p> <p>Work Together Aim High Shine Bright</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                              |
| School strengths                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Stretton St Matthews’s the Christian vision has a strong biblical underpinning. The associated school values are understood and lived out by pupils and adults. This helps all to ‘shine in the world and live as Jesus lived’.</li> <li>• The Christian vision shapes the curriculum. The well-planned range of experiences within the curriculum and the extra-curricular offer, enables pupils, including the vulnerable, to flourish.</li> <li>• The wellbeing and mental health of all is a priority for leaders. Grown from the school’s vision, the approaches taken to support this have a positive impact on staff, pupils and families.</li> <li>• Inspiring collective worship reflects the Christian vision. Its inclusive approach offers welcoming opportunities for worship and spiritual development for both adults and pupils.</li> <li>• The Religious education (RE) curriculum is well developed and engaging. It encourages enquiry and builds confidence for pupils to express their own ideas and opinions.</li> </ul> |                                              |
| Areas for development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed a shared language and understanding of spirituality. This is in order to build upon the variety of opportunities for spiritual development already in place.</li> <li>• Develop pupils’ awareness to independently address areas of injustice. This will enable them to become more confident agents of change for those facing adversity.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                              |
| Inspection findings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                              |
| <p>Inspired by Jesus’ example and teachings, Stretton St Matthew’s vision empowers all to flourish and share their light with others. The school’s ethos, of working together, aiming high, and shining bright is underpinned by its Christian values. Developed collaboratively with stakeholders, this vision shapes spiritual development and unites the community. The school environment and pupil behaviour reflect this. Pupils are encouraged to strive for their best and pursue their ambitions. A full and rich curriculum nurtures them, regardless of background, to achieve their fullest potential. This is also aligned with the trust vision of experiencing ‘life in all its fullness’.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                              |

The curriculum at Stretton St Matthew's is meticulously designed to reflect the school's Christian vision. This is achieved by integrating Christian values into teaching and learning. Staff encourage pupils to embody these values in daily life, fostering a positive approach to living. The kindness shown between year groups is an example of this. Buddy systems, for reception class and to encourage reading, are also an outworking of the vision and values. Opportunities for deep thinking, reflection, and spiritual growth are woven into the curriculum, which provide awe and wonder moments. However, there is no common language for pupils to use when discussing spirituality. This limits their ability to develop their own understanding. Celebrating differences, diversity and promoting respect for all are a high priority for leaders. Effective learning experiences are supported by a wealth of enrichment activities. Clubs such as mindfulness, cooking, sports, and choir contribute to spiritual growth as well as a sense of belonging. This prepares pupils for life beyond St Matthew's, ensuring they are well-rounded, respectful individuals. As a result, pupils are ready to make positive social contributions. Achieving awards that celebrate diversity demonstrates the commitment by the school and its community towards this.

Collective worship at St Matthew's plays a crucial role in fostering spiritual growth for pupils and staff. It promotes engagement, reflection, and a shared understanding of Christian values. The well-planned different approaches to worship provide occasions for the exploring of experiences and ideas. Pupils encounter the Christian story, engage in prayer, Bible readings, and reflection. This helps grow a deeper understanding of worship. Worship themes are often linked to local or global issues. The inclusive approach allows pupils to participate with reflections and meaningful contributions. Pupils and staff welcome moments of spirituality which are integrated into daily routines. They include reflection times, creative activities, and opportunities for personal and collective prayer. These help pupils to take moments across their day when they can develop their spiritual growth. The ethos group's involvement in planning worship enhances the school's Christian distinctiveness. They explore Bible stories and relate these to everyday life. This enables them to be role models in worship, demonstrating positive relationships and encouraging reflective thinking. These actions help to guide pupils and adults, so they can thrive spiritually.

The school's Christian vision fosters a culture where pupils and adults are treated with respect and compassion. Leaders emphasise wellbeing, ensuring pupils and adults feels valued and have a sense of belonging. By following Jesus's example, the school embraces and celebrates the unique gifts and talents of individuals. This creates an environment where people feel safe and accepted. Governors make the vision central to the school's policies. This ensures the promotion of inclusivity and diversity. They monitor the impact of the vision as part of all their school visits. This commitment underscores the school's dedication to creating an inclusive environment. The school leadership's passion for wellbeing, ensures that mental health is prioritized in all school decisions. The mental health and wellbeing policy ensures robust support for the emotional needs of pupils, staff, and parents. This includes open communication and providing accessible support and resources through the school's 'Rainbow Room'. As a result, when issues arise, staff work closely with parents, local partners, and external agencies. This is particularly welcomed by the families of the school. Programs and interventions are in place to support pupils, including the vulnerable. These ensure they receive the additional help they need to succeed. This exemplifies leader's commitment to inclusivity and high standards. This comprehensive, compassionate approach ensures that members of Stretton St Matthew's community thrive.

The vision inspires an active culture of fairness and responsibility. Both pupils and adults are empowered to make positive contributions to their community and the wider world. Pupils understand that helping others begins locally and extends globally. The school community supports raising funds and donating to charities. By committing to national initiatives and achieving recognised awards, pupils are encouraged to explore injustices and support charitable events. The

curriculum reinforces these values through topics which focus on real-world issues such as poverty and climate change. This encourages pupils to explore their role as courageous advocates. However, pupils are not aware of how they could be an agent of change in the wider world. The school's commitment to supporting charities and organising fundraising events demonstrates a commitment to fairness and responsibility.

The RE curriculum at St Matthew's is highly effective. RE is regarded as a core subject, with dedicated curriculum time and well supported teachers delivering lessons. This reflects its importance within the school community. Leaders provide quality support through staff training and sharing resources. This ensures high-quality learning. Pupils actively engage in RE. They express enthusiasm for learning about a variety of religions and worldviews as this makes them more understanding and respectful. High-quality resources, that support the teaching of Christianity, enrich pupils' learning. This enables them to explore core concepts and big questions. Support from the trust and diocese ensures alignment with best practices and national strategies.

The quality of RE is a priority for school leaders who strive for excellence. They use pupil friendly statements to review achievement levels. Individual and class books reflect the opportunities pupils have to develop their knowledge of religions and worldviews. Leaders, including members of the governors and trust, evaluate the impact of RE. They provide regular feedback, validating the continuous improvement in teaching quality. As a result, RE teaching ensures that over time pupils progress well.

The inspection findings indicate that Stretton St Matthews Church of England VA Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

| Information     |                                  |                |        |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Inspection date | 23 May 2024                      | URN            | 149613 |
| VC/VA/Academy   | Academy                          | Pupils on roll | 205    |
| Diocese         | Chester                          |                |        |
| MAT/Federation  | Chester Diocesan Academies Trust |                |        |
| Headteacher     | Sian Simcock                     |                |        |
| Chair           | Brian Jamson                     |                |        |
| Inspector       | Rob Dean                         | No.            | 2129   |