

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

| St Matthew's Church of England VC Primary School, Nechells  |  |
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| Address   | Duddeston Manor Road, Nechells Green, Birmingham, B7 4JR |
| School vision   |  |
| <p>At St. Matthew's our vision is for our children, staff and community to have "Courage, Attainment and Pride" in all that we do.</p> <p>Our key bible verses (our mottos) which underpin this are:</p> <p>'With God, nothing is impossible.' Luke 1:37</p> <p>'You are the light of the world.' Matthew 5:14</p>  |  |
| School strengths  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders deeply understand the needs of the community and are passionate in enabling all to thrive. As a result, their vision unites and serves a diverse and vibrant community, where all are valued. Bold decisions by leaders remove barriers so that individuals are able to shine.</li> <li>• The inclusive curriculum fosters pupils' pride in their heritage alongside a deep understanding of local, national and global issues.</li> <li>• Collective worship provides rich opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth. Through exploring the school's vision, pupils are inspired to think, feel and respond to issues of injustice, particularly within their community.</li> <li>• Leaders are committed to the wellbeing of everyone in the school community. Open hearts and open doors enable adults and pupils to receive the support they need. Driven by the vision, pupils with additional needs are prioritised in order for them to shine and share their gifts with others.</li> <li>• A bold and well-sequenced religious education (RE) curriculum provides rich learning experiences. As a result, pupils gain a deep understanding of world religions and worldviews. Strong leadership ensures high quality professional development for staff and a well-resourced and relevant curriculum.</li> </ul> |  |
| Areas for development   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building on current practice, empower pupils to respond more widely to issues of global injustice. This is so that pupils understand more deeply how they can act as agents for change on a broader scale.</li> </ul>  |  |
| Inspection findings   |  |
| <p>St Matthew's shines brightly in the heart of its diverse community, as a beacon of courage, attainment and pride. Its deeply embedded vision that 'nothing is impossible with God' has created a vibrant and peaceful community. By working together, pupils and adults thrive. Leaders are relentless in their drive to ensure that everyone at St Matthew's is inspired to live in the image of God. Governors know the school well, as they have robust procedures in place for monitoring the</p>  |  |

impact of the school's vision. They come into school often to experience the school vision in action and listen to the views of pupils. As a result, leaders are well-supported in driving the school forward so that pupils and adults flourish.

The school's vision shapes its curriculum, which meets the learning and spiritual needs of pupils, including those with complex needs. Pupils achieve well at St Matthew's, as all are encouraged to shine through God's given gifts. Opportunities are created for pupils to excel across the school curriculum and beyond. Poetry and writing competitions, elite football training, art projects and music and drama performances greatly enhance pupils' learning experiences. Close partnership working with the diocese has enhanced the provision for spiritual growth. The spiritual development of pupils is central to the curriculum. Pupils understand healthy relationships and how being kind and thoughtful to others and themselves is important. They see themselves as a reflection of the vision and are proud that their school is such a special place. A shared language of spirituality supports pupils to express their thoughts or ask for help when they find things tricky. Through designated spaces, opportunities for prayer are plentiful and accessible. Pupils use these spaces to unburden their worries, take time to be thankful or to think of others in need. Opportunities for reflection, discussion and challenge are abundant and relevant across all subjects, but particularly through reading. Carefully chosen texts deepen pupils' empathy beyond their lived experience, enhancing spiritual flourishing. In art, pupils are able to explore deep feelings and profound beliefs. In RE, they discuss the idea of mystery and questions that have no clear answers. As a result, pupils demonstrate their maturing self-awareness, as they go through the school.

Collective worship enables the school's rich tapestry of faiths to come together in prayer, thought and spiritual reflection. It is a peaceful time that is uplifting, motivating and inspiring. It sets the tone for the day. The school's Christian vision is central to worship, as it is intentionally inclusive of all faiths, binding differing beliefs through commonality. Because worship at St Matthew's is invitational, it enables pupils, staff and parents to engage with integrity. Worship is thoughtfully planned and promotes spiritual growth. Pupils are often inspired to behave differently following discussion and reflection on teachings from the Bible. They are more accepting of others by valuing differing opinions and are better able to forgive those who have wronged them.

Through the vision, leaders at St Matthew's have successfully created a culture of positive mental health. Carefully considered policies promote the wellbeing of all and these are lived out in the daily life of the school. Close links with the church provide additional support for staff, families and pupils. The local vicar visits the school weekly to lead prayer sessions and respond to prayers placed on the prayer tree. Staff appreciate that leaders listen and respond to staff views. This creates a culture of trust and respect. Staff are encouraged and supported to grow professionally. Prioritising investment in professional development benefits the school by ensuring high quality teachers are grown from within the St Matthew's community. Teachers are encouraged to progress through senior leadership programmes, contributing to driving the school's work as a National Support School. Pupils who have complex needs thrive through individualised support programmes. Dedicated time in an enhanced environment meets their emotional and learning needs, ensuring that all have the opportunity to shine. St Matthew's invests highly in all of its pupils to ensure that any barriers to learning and wellbeing are removed. Working closely with families, vulnerable pupils are supported by a dedicated play therapist to unlock their potential. This work is transformational. Pupils are better able to sustain healthy friendships, recognise and regulate their emotions and access their learning more effectively.

Pupils at St Matthew's are encouraged to be 'the light of the world' by showing responsibility towards others and challenging injustice. Within school, pupils are confident to challenge unkind behaviour towards others. They look for opportunities to help those who may be struggling. To improve their local area, families and the church come together at weekends to litter pick. Pupils are

proud to make a difference to their community. Through establishing links with a school in Malawi, pupils shared differences between their two schools. Pupils at St Matthew’s noticed the lack of resources in Malawi compared to their own. Inspired by the vision, pupils raised money to enhance learning experiences in their partner school. As a result, leaders have rightly recognised the importance of deepening pupils’ engagement in global issues of injustice and inequality.

Religious education at St Matthew’s is well-led and generously resourced. Staff are well-supported and well-trained. The effective curriculum is progressive and challenging, deepening pupils’ understanding of Christianity and the complexities of world faiths. This enables pupils to respond thoughtfully and explore relevant issues with confidence. The RE curriculum is innovative, engaging and highly effective in preparing pupils for living in a multicultural society. Pupils love RE and learning about many different religions. As a result, they demonstrate respect and tolerance of different faiths within their own community. Pupils want to know what is important to others so they can be sensitive to their views. This enables them to have friendships with people of different faiths, as well as their own.

St Matthew’s Church school shines as a beacon of hope for all. Adults look for the best in their pupils and get the best out of them. God’s gifts are celebrated with pride, igniting the inner spark that ‘with God, nothing is impossible.’

The inspection findings indicate that St Matthew’s Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

| Information     |                      |                |        |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|--------|
| Inspection date | 23 April 2024        | URN            | 103404 |
| VC/VA/Academy   | Voluntary controlled | Pupils on roll | 210    |
| Diocese         | Birmingham           |                |        |
| MAT/Federation  |                      |                |        |
| Headteacher     | Sonia Thompson       |                |        |
| Chair           | Michael Tooze        |                |        |
| Inspector       | Charlotte Taylor     | No.            | 2117   |