

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

<b>Walsgrave Church of England Primary Academy</b>	
Address	School House Lane, CV2 2BA
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Together We Thrive</b></p> <p>The tree provides safety, shelter and a home. The tree is planted in rich soil so it can grow, develop and flourish. Every part of the tree has a purpose and a unique part to play to make Walsgrave stand strong.</p> <p>For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils and adults thrive together at Walsgrave because leaders have ensured that a theologically rooted Christian vision enables all to flourish. The image of a growing tree which supports the meaning of the vision permeates many aspects of this successful academy.</li> <li>• The pastoral support for every member of the community is exceptional. Provision to nurture and support wellbeing and mental health leads to deep rooted flourishing. This is at the heart of Walsgrave's success and is shared beyond the academy.</li> <li>• Staff who work at Walsgrave and multi-academy trust (MAT) leaders monitor the impact of the Christian vision well. However, those responsible for governance, do not deploy a robust enough monitoring system of Walsgrave as a Church academy.</li> <li>• Collective worship is enjoyed by pupils who develop an understanding of the teachings of Jesus. Leaders do not consistently plan worship to fully explore the vision and its associated language with all pupils and adults. Mutually beneficial partnerships with the local church communities support the flourishing of everyone at Walsgrave.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is a strength at Walsgrave. Opportunities for spiritual growth are woven through the wider curriculum. The definition of spirituality is not securely understood by staff. Consequently, opportunities for unplanned spiritual development are sometimes missed.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop collective worship so that all pupils and adults make explicit links between Walsgrave's Christian vision and experiences in worship. This is to enhance the impact of collective worship for everyone.</li> <li>• Develop robust systems to ensure Church school governors more effectively evaluate the impact of the academy's Christian vision.</li> <li>• Embed the definition of spirituality so that the spiritual growth of all pupils and adults is enhanced. Thus, capturing the unplanned opportunities for spiritual development.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

Academy leaders have developed and implemented an inclusive Christian vision. This leads to pupils and adults flourishing in many aspects of the academy community. At Walsgrave, everyone thrives together, and the vision is lived out by the staff. The imagery of a tree is carefully used to develop people's understanding of the Christian vision and associated values. Academy and MAT leaders monitor the impact of the vision regularly. The local governing board does not use a robust enough system to monitor the impact of the vision. Governors miss opportunities to measure the impact and do not contribute to the development of the academy as a Church school. The headteacher is committed to enabling everyone to thrive within the deeply loving learning environment that is created because of the vision. Relationships and partnerships at all levels are strong. The leadership team champion staff development. Opportunities are thoroughly harnessed in partnership with the MAT. Consequently, there is a successful track record of growing Church school leaders. Parents are valued and cared for alongside the pupils who are well served by the dedicated staff team. Accordingly, support for pupils is tailored to their individual needs.

The vision is woven into the academy's curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Leaders ensure that the essence of the wider curriculum is focused on academic flourishing. Teachers consistently apply inclusive Christian values to learning opportunities to support pupils in understanding Walsgrave's vision. The local church communities enhance this by running extra-curricular clubs for pupils. The curriculum has opportunities for pupils to grow spiritually. However, Walsgrave's definition of spirituality is not fully embedded or shared with all staff. Consequently, there are missed opportunities for the spiritual growth of pupils and adults.

The 'Together We Thrive' mantra supports the character and moral development of all pupils. Leaders ensure that pupils have high aspirations for themselves. Walsgrave is central in providing hope for the communities of which they are a part. When circumstances are difficult, it is the vision that strengthens individuals. Families receive relentless support from staff. As a result, they feel valued and loved as part of the community. Leaders and pupils plan social action projects that are inspired by local, national, and global issues. The whole academy engages in social action projects and pupils are enabled to be courageous advocates for change in these communities. Pupils learn about deprivation and the exploitation of the natural world. A range of initiatives enables pupils to look beyond themselves.

Provision for wellbeing and mental health is exceptional. The pastoral lead has created a haven of love that encapsulates the Christian vision. It nourishes the complex needs of pupils, families, and staff remarkably well. This commitment to flourishing is infectious. This expertise is shared with other academies across the MAT. The highly trained staff know the pupils inside and out. This leads to deep-rooted flourishing for all. Pupils and adults live out the vision within the wide range of social and cultural development opportunities that are readily taken. Vulnerable pupils thrive because the provision is tailored to their needs and barriers to learning are overcome. Pupils behave exceptionally well. Policies and procedures are rooted in forgiveness and reconciliation. Extremely rare incidents of poor behaviour are managed skillfully by staff. These are harnessed as learning opportunities for pupils to embed the vision and associated values. Pupils learn to live well with one another in the harmonious environment that permeates Walsgrave.

The sense of working together is grown from the Christian vision and creates an environment that embraces differences. Whatever their background or ability, every pupil is supported to flourish because they are treated with dignity and respect. Leaders at all levels create a safe



space for everyone to be themselves and celebrate their uniqueness. Pupils' diverse heritages are celebrated and shared across the academy. Everyone is made to feel welcome and part of the Walsgrave family. Relationships and sex education lessons offer age-appropriate and coherent relationships that encourage pupils to build healthy relationships. Pupils have a keen sense of tackling injustice in society. Bountiful pupil leadership roles across the academy enable their voices to be heard beyond Walsgrave.

Collective worship regularly reflects the vision and associated Christian values. However, not all pupils and adults engage fully with worship. Occasionally, this restricts their ability to make explicit links between the vision and their experiences of worship. Elements of music, singing, story, and drama are utilised by adults leading worship. It supports pupils' understanding and appreciation of different styles of Christian worship. A group of pupils supports the headteacher in planning and evaluating some acts of worship. Following the interruption of the pandemic, pupil reengagement in planning, leading, and evaluating worship is in its infancy. Pupils have a clear understanding of Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus. The multicultural context of the academy is reflected in the stories and themes that are explored in addition to Bible stories. Invitational prayer and reflection are valued parts of each day for pupils and adults. Pupils use the language associated with the Holy Trinity and have a developing understanding of Anglican traditions and the seasons of the church's year. Newly appointed clergy at St Mary's Church have swiftly built relationships with the academy and already offer valued pastoral support to pupils, families, and staff. The impact of partnerships with the local Baptist Church is equally as strong. These partnerships support pupils understanding of Christian festivals, prayer, and reflection. Pupils love visiting the local churches. This adds to the strong sense of community that shines at Walsgrave.

RE is a key strength at Walsgrave. Skilled leaders weave the vision throughout the inspiring RE curriculum. This gives clarity of vision and supports pupils' exploration of theology, philosophy, and human science. Subsequently, pupils develop age-appropriate skills of enquiry, critical analysis, and interpretation. Effective partnerships with the Diocesan Board of Education impact the shaping high-quality RE provision. Diocesan training supports staff in delivering high-quality lessons. The RE leader shares expertise across the MAT. The Understanding Christianity resource successfully supports staff subject knowledge and forms pupils' understanding of the Bible. Work in pupils' books demonstrates the depth of knowledge acquired. Interactive displays promote critical thinking, celebrate diversity, and magnifies the vision. RE provision exceeds the RE Statement for Entitlement. Assessment systems are robust and enable teachers to challenge pupils and scaffold learning so all can flourish in RE.

Pupils and adults thrive together at Walsgrave. The shared imagery of the tree enables this flourishing to be deep-rooted. Together We Thrive is a powerful message for the academy community that is united in striving for everyone to flourish.



Information			
School	Walsgrave Church of England Primary Academy	Inspection date	8 December 2022
URN	142244	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Coventry	Pupils on roll	457
MAT/Federation	Inspire Education Trust		
Headteacher	Damien Sowerby		
Chair of Governors	Don Pendergrast		
Inspector	Toby Long	No.	896