

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

### St Lawrence Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

The whole school community united in helping others and the environment locally, nationally and internationally (The Good Samaritan) and ensuring that every pupil becomes an ambassador of The St Lawrence Way (Be Responsible; Encourage Others; Show Respect and Try Our Best). Our school will impact positively upon pupils' academic attainment, curriculum experience, attitudes and behaviour; as well as providing a broad range of extra-curricular opportunities. This vision is rooted in the parable of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10 29-37), inspiring our pupils to live out Christian values through compassion, responsibility and service.

St Lawrence Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

#### Notable Strengths

- The St Lawrence Way is embedded and woven into aspects of school life. It is lived out daily. Pupils and adults fully embrace the vision, creating a strong sense of community.
- The Christian vision shapes the curriculum, especially the outdoor provision. These opportunities widen pupils' awareness of the world, developing a love of learning that raises aspiration and self-belief. Through enrichment visits and wider experiences, pupils flourish even in the most challenging of circumstances.
- The strong partnership with the local church significantly enriches the quality of collective worship and religious education (RE). These connections help pupils feel a genuine sense of belonging and deepen their engagement with the local community.
- St Lawrence's is a place of welcome and belonging, offering exceptional support for pupils and families. Pupils, including those who have vulnerabilities and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are particularly well supported and cared for.

#### Development Points

- Establish robust processes for leaders to thoroughly monitor and evaluate the impact of the Christian vision in all areas of school life. This is to provide effective support and challenge that shapes ongoing developments as a Church school.
- Develop a shared approach to spirituality that is accessible for both pupils and adults. This is to support staff in planning and implementing spiritual experiences across the curriculum and the wider life of the school.
- Strengthen the RE curriculum so that it is challenging and consistently effective. This is to enrich pupils' understanding of Christianity as a global faith and broaden their knowledge of world religions.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

St Lawrence's is a nurturing school where pupils and adults are enabled to live life in all its fullness. The well-established vision based on the parable of The Good Samaritan is known throughout the whole school community. It is supported by the St Lawrence Way (be responsible, encourage others, show respect and try our best), which permeates the whole of school life. The Christian vision and values form the foundation for decision-making. Leaders ensure that they guide policies and priorities. Their commitment ensures that pupils and adults are treated with care. An example is the creation of the hub, a space dedicated to supporting pupils who have SEND. As a result, pupils who have additional needs thrive and staff take delight in enabling them to reach their goals. Leaders, including governors, know the school well. They understand its context and vision. However, their evaluation of the vision's impact is not formalised or systematic. Consequently, discussions and monitoring are not always specific.

### Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision, lived out through the St Lawrence Way, is reflected in the thoughtfully planned curriculum. Inclusive topics and wide-ranging opportunities make learning meaningful and encourage pupils to find out about the world beyond their rural school. Pupils are supported in connecting with nature and developing a respect for life, the environment and other through the use of outdoor learning. Regular visits to a local farm, further enhance the curriculum opportunities offered. These memorable moments provide valuable shared learning and link back to the school's values encouraging greater respect and responsibility. Pupils who have SEND access the curriculum through carefully considered changes to how subjects are taught. This is sometimes in the hub but often alongside peers in the mainstream classrooms. The St Lawrence Way values are explicitly taught. For example, Year 5 learn about life in a workhouse, igniting a spark with pupils to make links between their learning and the school's values. Leaders have not established a common approach to spirituality to ensure it is well understood and guides the delivery of planned opportunities. As a consequence, the way the curriculum enhances the spiritual growth of adults and pupils is limited.

### Worship and Spirituality

Partnerships between the school and St Lawrence's Church are well-established and greatly valued. St Lawrence's children's worker and clergy collaborate with school leaders to plan and lead services. As a result, worship unites the community. Worship is Christian, invitational and inclusive, which ensures that both pupils and adults feel included, whatever their personal beliefs or views. The school provides a variety of opportunities to develop an understanding of prayer. This enriches the school's spiritual life by giving pupils opportunities to reflect. However, because there is not a shared whole school approach to spirituality, opportunities to deepen and extend experiences are missed. Worship inspires pupils to reflect on the needs of others. For example, they listened with great respect and interest when hearing of the plight of children in the Congo and the project Kimblio. The love of singing unites the school community in fellowship and pupils take the message of the religious songs to heart. The much-loved 'hymns on the hills' is a cherished event in the life of the school. Being able to worship in nature is very special for both pupils and adults, bringing moments of awe and wonder that support spiritual growth.

### Vision and School Culture

Positive relationships are evident in the way staff care for one another and act as role models to pupils. They are equally visible in the warmth pupils share together. Strategies to support pupils who are new to the school, whenever they join, enable them to feel welcome. As a result, they settle quickly and are proud to belong to this community. The school has received an external award that celebrates the compassion it shows others. Leaders are approachable and committed to wellbeing. Therefore, pupils feel safe and know that adults listen carefully



and act quickly to help. Staff support one another well and appreciate being encouraged by senior leaders to develop professionally. Because of this, teachers and other adults at St Lawrence's gain fulfilment and flourish in their careers. Consequently, staff feel valued and equipped to contribute effectively to the school's vision and ongoing development. Pupils and adults alike state that both their actions and the choices they make are because of the St Lawrence Way. For example, pupils help each other in lessons because it is important that 'we encourage others.' Love and kindness foster respectful, supportive relationships valued by pupils and adults, including parents, throughout the school.

#### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Through lessons, and experiences when learning outdoors, pupils' responsibility is fostered by looking after the world around them. As a result, they care for nature. This is supported by work in the curriculum, such as when Year 2 look at a range of poems about 'Our Wonderful World.' Pupils are passionate about caring for God's world. This has been recognised by the achievement of the eco school award. Leaders and staff work with the church to facilitate opportunities for pupils to learn about justice. They understand that the fundraising and support of Kimbilio in the Congo has been life-changing for children living there. Pupils fulfil a variety of leadership roles such as mentors, eco and school council members. These roles develop their sense of responsibility towards others and the natural environment. Engaging with the local community fosters a deep sense of belonging. Pupils sing at the local care home, sharing love and joy to residents. This reinforces the importance of responsible action.

#### Religious Education

Pupils enjoy the learning opportunities provided in RE lessons and are able to talk about world faiths with some understanding of people and beliefs. When learning about wider worldviews, there is a culture of welcome, respect and acceptance. The curriculum has been reshaped to give a broad and balanced approach to RE. Staff access training from the diocese which improves their subject knowledge and consequently increases confidence. This enables them to offer lessons with an emphasis on questioning skills and how faith impacts lives. However, in some topics, the curriculum lacks depth. Therefore, pupils are not consistently challenged in their thinking and understanding. As a result, they are limited in their knowledge and understanding of the diversity with religions and how people express their beliefs. Pupils show enthusiasm for learning about different religions and their practices. They learn first-hand from religious leaders who come into school to share more about their faith.

## Information

Address	63A Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton. SY6 6EX		
Date	7 May 2026	URN	123468
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	195 + 27 Nursery
Diocese	Hereford		
Headteacher	Alan Brannen		
Chair of Governors	Emily Russell		
Inspector	Jane Davis		