



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

Langley Mill Church of England Infant School	
Address	Sedgwick Street, Langley Mill, NG16 4DT

School vision
<p>Always our best for God, each other and ourselves.</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 9:10 “Whatever the activity in which you engage do it with all your ability”</p> <p>Our school vision captures the values and ambitions that we have for all of the children so that they are all able to achieve within our four core values – aspire, learn, serve and respect.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vision and core values are an intrinsic part of school life. Pupils demonstrate a mature awareness and embedded understanding of the vision and values which is beyond their age.</li> <li>• Leaders at all levels are passionate about their role. They are sincerely committed to ensure that the Christian vision is at the forefront of their decision making.</li> <li>• The sense of family is very deeply rooted enabling all to flourish within a profound sense of Christian love.</li> <li>• Collective worship is truly the heartbeat of this school contributing greatly to the spiritual flourishing of the whole school community.</li> <li>• Pupils have a vast and rich knowledge of Bible stories which positively impacts their understanding in religious education (RE).</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend systems and procedures which will continue to raise the profile of the school’s Christian vision.</li> <li>• Create spaces outside where pupils can be quiet and reflect in order to enrich spiritual awareness.</li> <li>• Provide practical and more tangible experiences to enhance a greater understanding of religions and worldviews other than Christianity.</li> </ul>
Inspection findings
<p>The Christian vision of ‘Always our best for God, each other and ourselves’ is intrinsic at Langley Mill Infant School. It is succinctly underpinned by four core values. A deep sense of Christian love enables pupils to flourish. Everyone uses a common language. As a consequence, even the youngest pupils describe how the vision and values influence their own lives with great maturity and understanding. There is a palpable feeling of active acceptance and a family supporting and encouraging each other to do their best.</p> <p>All leaders are passionate about their role, driven by a sincere commitment and empathy for</p>

members of the school family. Staff are transforming lives as they encourage pupils to focus on the core values to aspire, learn, respect and serve. As pupils adopt and replicate these foundations they are thriving and lives are being positively impacted, including life at home. Leaders ensure that the vision is paramount when planning and making decisions. Monitoring takes place and highlights areas for development. However, it is not strategic and vision focussed. As a result, continuous evaluation of some aspects of the Christian character of the school is sometimes overlooked and not contributing sufficiently to improvement planning.

Careful consideration has been given to ensure the Christian vision is pertinent to the learning needs of the pupils. The simplicity and familiarity with the Bible verse found in Ecclesiastes 9:10 is inspiring pupils to have high aspirations. They want to do well and a simple pictorial marking policy enables them to have clear direction in their work. Regular focus and meaningful application ensure these very young pupils are using the core values in the classroom without prompting. Staff have an understanding of spirituality and curriculum plans identify opportunities for spiritual development for each subject area. Bespoke provision for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) ensures everyone has the targeted interventions necessary for their learning. The recognition that each pupil is accepted and loved unconditionally as a unique child of God is highly recognised by local agencies. Those who have been turned down by other settings are warmly welcomed and flourish in this all accepting and nurturing environment.

Collective worship is truly the heartbeat of this school. Everyone, including the very youngest pupils, waits for worship to begin with a great sense of expectation. A simple visual format helps to focus on the order of worship. There is a real sense of familiarity as Year 2 pupils confidently prepare the focus table with a cloth and refer to emblems representing the Trinity. They welcome everyone as they gather, lead prayers and a blessing at the end. The impact of this daily participation is that such contributions are normal and a very natural part of their meeting together. Weekly visitors inspirationally share Bible stories and pupils interact enthusiastically. Nothing is forced and there is a real sense of respect as pupils respond to prayer in a way in which they feel comfortable. Reflection areas inside are well utilised although, as yet, there are no outside spaces to promote quiet reflection. Worship at Langley Mill is instinctive and genuine and it is greatly influencing the spiritual flourishing of everyone in the school family. Strong links with St. Andrews Church and other Christian communities are also enriching worship provision at the school.

Staff know every family and pupils' unique personalities. All are lovingly supported to do their best. Leaders are working alongside families to increase attendance in innovative ways. These personalised, vision focused methods are having a huge impact with encouraging pupils into school. Behaviour is good due to the implementation of the 'behaviour blueprint' and any issues are addressed with a deep understanding of circumstance and empathy. Support for families and pupils with emotional needs and SEND is strong. As a result, local partnerships, agencies and hubs are well utilised. Learning is personalised through nurture groups. Families praise the contribution of all staff as they encourage and support their children to flourish. Other connections, such as with the church food bank, Salvation Army and local supermarkets are making a vast difference in the lives of school families. The community spontaneously supported each other as recent flooding impacted many. Everyone works relentlessly to meet the most basic needs. Staff speak of how they are cared for and nurtured in an atmosphere of an all-encompassing love. They describe how leaders 'go the extra mile' to help them. Regular 'shout outs' and 'Celebration Buddies' are positively contributing to their own wellbeing as they do their best for each other.

Pupils at Langley Mill are very dedicated to taking on their responsibilities and are being prepared to speak out for what is right. Reflecting their deeply embedded vision, they are keen to take on roles in the classroom. They demonstrate a dutiful commitment to helping their peers to the best of their ability. The 'pupil voice' group is especially strong and makes positive decisions to improve the

environment for everyone. They are already taking action to install a buddy bench and have identified the need for quiet spaces outside where pupils can sit and reflect. Clear structures put in place are enabling this group to develop independence through consultation and consequent actions. Meaningful contributions at harvest time originated because families wanted to give something back to the local food bank for the wider community. Any fundraising which takes place is purposeful and in response to need.

A particular strength of this school is pupil's vast knowledge of Bible stories. They not only relay the story but interpret the meaning with great understanding and clarity. They have learnt many of these through their RE lessons. Leaders have ensured that RE curriculum coverage is comprehensive and have identified clear actions to foster further flourishing. Pupils can explain why it is important to learn about a range of religions. They articulate the need to be able to have informed discussions with their friends from different cultures. Whilst resources used in school are varied, practical and real-life experiences are limited. Consequently, pupils have few opportunities to encounter a range of cultures beyond their own locality.

The inspection findings indicate that Langley Mill Church of England Infant School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	22 November 2023	URN	112827
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	104
Diocese	Derby		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Suzanne Gardner		
Chair	Catherine Hallsworth		
Inspector	Joy Hardy	No.	944