

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Laurence's Church of England Primary School

Vision

A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, love one another. John 13:34

Our vision and Christian values are at the heart of everything we strive for. We strive to reflect the love of God, the love of life and the love of learning together in all we do. Our Christian values are the foundations of our teaching and learning and provide an environment which nurtures happy, confident and independent children, who make good choices and contribute positively to society. We see ourselves as a learning community where we all aspire to achieve our potential: academically, professionally and spiritually. Our three core values inform our curriculum and our ethos: Trust, Wisdom and Creativity.

St Laurence's 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 empowering ethos of St Laurence's school emanates from its Christian vision of loving service. This strong culture is the springboard for continuous improvement. Here, people are honoured, their needs are met and so they are able to flourish.
- The Christian vision inspires a high level of commitment to professional development. This ensures that staff are proficient in meeting pupils' highly diverse needs. As a result, pupils thrive, families feel supported and staff are fulfilled.
- The curriculum, shaped by the biblically rooted vision, enables pupils to achieve well. The focus on interpersonal and linguistic skills enables pupils to engage meaningfully and express personal and spiritual responses. The wide range of high quality extra-curricular provision further enhances their overall development.
- Religious education (RE) is enriching and purposeful. The curriculum enables pupils to understand a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Variety and inclusivity are hallmarks of collective worship at St Laurence's, and are an expression of its loving vision. Consequently, both adults and pupils relish this binding and uplifting community experience.

Development Point

- Deepen pupils' understanding of Christianity as a global faith. This is so that they develop a greater understanding of the diverse ways in which people live out their beliefs.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

St Laurence's Christian vision of love is illustrated in its unwavering commitment to human flourishing. Leaders ensure that the school's associated values of trust, wisdom and creativity are the framework for living and learning. Staff embody these, modelling positive relationships and attitudes. Carefully created displays amplify the vision and values, reinforcing pupils' understanding. Reflecting the vision, the ethos is supportive and uplifting. In this atmosphere of thoughtful kindness, pupils develop personally, academically and spiritually. Monitoring and evaluation by leaders and governors ensure that the vision informs their policy and practice. Individuals know they are valued and thrive as a result of the abundance of care. Leaders work in close and responsive partnership with their diverse community. Such is the loving culture that families feel listened to and supported at every turn. Parents say 'nothing is ever too much' and feel the school takes them under its wing. This exemplifies the way that the vision impacts upon the lives of those within the whole community.

Vision and Curriculum

Guided by this loving vision, leaders demonstrate a clear ambition for pupils to realise their potential. Accordingly, they have created a stimulating curriculum that promotes reflection, critical thinking and reasoning. As a result, St Laurence's curriculum offer is enriching, exciting and purposeful. Pupils know that they are expected to do their best, but also know that adults will always help them if needed. Weekly philosophy and circle time sessions invite pupils to take part in discussion and decision making around ethical issues. These experiences nourish pupils' emotional and spiritual growth and inspire a love of learning. Strategic decisions by leaders to invest in professional development have enhanced staff expertise. Adults sensitively support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and those considered vulnerable to achieve within the classroom. The impressive array of extra-curricular activities, such as orchestra, cricket and cookery, offer broad opportunities for pupils to develop skills and talents. Living out the Christian vision, staff enable pupils to thrive in their work and learning.

Worship and Spirituality

Worship at St Laurence's is a vibrant expression of its loving vision. Christian values are brought to life through Bible stories, music, celebrations and prayer. Worship is inclusive, with staff supporting pupils where necessary. The school prayer and worship rituals nourish a sense of belonging. Pupils are proud to be worship leaders, and particularly enjoyed teaching those in the nursery about the value of love. Leaders listen to pupils' views and, as a result, worship is varied, relevant and engaging. The school has strong ties with the local church. The school's 'pilgrimages' to worship there build a sense of connection and appreciation for pupils. They value taking part in the festivals that signify key times in the Christian year. Spirituality runs as a 'golden thread' through worship. Staff and pupils appreciate that joining together for worship creates a spiritual feeling. Pupils understand their own spirituality through carefully selected images, such as that of being inflated, like a hot air balloon. They make the connection between spirituality and the joy that they experience when singing together. The school community appreciates how worship is a special time in the school day, fostering both well-being and spiritual growth.

Vision and School Culture

The community of St Laurence's experiences its Christian vision as a culture of loving care that runs through daily life. People enjoy being here and consider it a privilege to be part of the community. Positive relationships across the school are marked by courteous respect. Staff are swift to notice needs so that pupils feel they are valued and listened to. Accordingly, they in turn are polite and considerate, understanding that their thoughts, words and actions matter. Guided by the vision, empathy is a key trait and forgiveness is seen as a natural way forward after disagreement. Pupils show an exemplary attitude to learning and take part in activities with eagerness. Leaders uphold the vision in their strategic decisions, ensuring that pupils with additional needs receive



appropriate provision. As a result, individuals with diverse needs are enveloped within this loving culture. The curriculum and culture therefore together promote good mental health for both pupils and adults. Staff know that leaders care for them and that their wellbeing is important. Families and pupils receive invaluable support from trained staff. This makes a significant difference to their lives.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The Christian vision of love is lived out in daily life, translating directly into positive action. This models civility and collective responsibility as the natural way of being together. There is a demonstrably effective culture of justice and responsibility. Pupils are taught to be caring of themselves and one another. Teachers help them to learn to express themselves in purposeful and positive ways. Pupils learn the skills necessary for both preventing and resolving conflict with their peers. Opportunities abound for them to develop as leaders and to contribute to the common good, both within and beyond school. Correspondingly, they see themselves as active, responsible and caring citizens. Recently, the school council initiated a school-wide food bank appeal. Partnerships with the diocese bring rich opportunities for pupils to make significant contributions to the wider community. For example, pupils were honoured to play an important part at the recent welcome celebration for the new archdeacon of Ludlow. These experiences reinforce pupils' sense of themselves as people who are capable of contributing to and initiating positive change.

Religious Education

RE deeply aligns with the vision, nurturing spiritual, moral and intellectual growth. Its high profile is evidenced in displays and pupils' work. Through its focus on discussion and reflection, RE is pivotal in developing their ability to analyse and respond to information. Leaders and governors ensure that the curriculum is challenging and well-sequenced, enabling pupils to expand their knowledge and understanding. Through this, learning presents a 'window on the world', helping them to develop respect for a variety of religions and worldviews. Pupils have a secure knowledge and understanding of Christianity but their understanding of it as a diverse global faith is less well developed. School leaders invest in regular, high quality professional development opportunities led by the diocese. Teachers adapt learning tasks and select appropriate resources so that each pupil can experience success. As a result, the curriculum ensures that pupils engage with interest, are motivated to learn and enjoy this subject.

Information

Address	Jockeyfield, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1TP		
Date	21 May 2026	URN	123529
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	240
Diocese	Hereford		
Headteacher	Stephen Matthews		
Chair of Governors	Peter Sell		
Inspector	Bridget Knight		