

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Salford Priors Church of England Academy

Vision

"Be rooted in Christ" - Ephesians 3:17 speaks of grasping the breadth, depth, length and height of Christ's love, and of being rooted and grounded in love.

Love is the foundation of a Christian life. The presence of Christ in our hearts transforms how we think, act, and grow. We believe this deep, personal relationship with Christ is essential for lasting maturity, resilience, and joy. Rooted in love and faith. Growing in hope and courage. Thriving in light and harmony.

This vision expresses our commitment that everyone is valued, equipped, and inspired to flourish — embracing both success and challenge.

Salford Priors Church of England Academy 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 Christian vision is driving leaders' actions and is central to the school's life and work. Living out this vision is enabling pupils and adults to be rooted and to grow together.
- Leaders, guided by the vision, place a strong emphasis on mental health and wellbeing within the school community. This creates a supportive, caring culture which enables pupils and adults to build positive relationships that show a strong level of respect and kindness.
- School leaders, together with clergy from St Matthew's Church, ensure that collective worship is welcoming and central to the life of the school. Valued opportunities to join in story, reflection and prayer foster pupils and adults' spiritual growth. It impacts strongly on how pupils and adults understand and live out the school's vision.
- Strong relationships with St Matthew's Church and the Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust enhance the life of Salford Priors as a Church school. These partnerships create a supportive, caring network that deepens the vision's impact and fosters a sense of belonging.
- To support pupils flourishing, leaders give careful consideration to the context of this small village school. As a result, the religious education curriculum is effectively crafted to meet the needs of the pupils.

Development Points

- Ensure full implementation of the revised RE curriculum. This is to maximise opportunities for pupils to gain deeper knowledge and understanding of the ways people live out their beliefs.
- Develop greater opportunities for pupils to engage in issues of injustice. This is to strengthen their sense of responsibility towards others and become more effective as agents of change.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Salford Priors' Christian vision is rooted in the needs of the community. It reflects the unique character and context of this small village school. 'Be rooted in love and faith,' is clearly articulated and provides stability in unsettled times. It shapes a nurturing, warm culture where pupils and adults are known and valued. Central to the behaviour strategy is the emphasis on maintaining a calm manner and attitude. Together these provide an inclusive environment where pupils are valued and thrive. Decision making, curriculum design and pastoral support are all driven by the vision. This creates an environment where dignity, inclusion and respect are prioritised. The relationship between the governing body and school leaders is strong. Governors collaborate closely and draw on a range of information to understand how pupils are flourishing. This allows them to recognise strengths, pinpoint areas for growth and act intentionally. For example, monitoring has led to pupils taking an active role in the planning of collective worship. School leaders and governors have established a purposeful and beneficial partnership with The Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust. This provides staff and leaders with a range of support and enables them to develop and grow in confidence.

Vision and Curriculum

The inclusive and renewed curriculum is designed to meet the evolving and changing needs of the school, developing pupils' social and cultural growth. It is planned and adapted to meet pupils' academic needs within small mixed classes. The vision plays a crucial role in shaping how leaders support pupils with additional needs. The trust provides consistent assistance to school leaders, empowering them to make clear decisions regarding the curriculum. This ensures that staff are equipped in developing and adapting personalised learning, safe spaces and emotional guidance. This all helps pupils to understand and manage their emotions. As a result, they engage positively and grow in confidence. Leaders have introduced a consistent approach to spiritual development. Regular opportunities to develop spiritually are integrated into the curriculum and school day. Visits, visitors and outdoor learning offer the opportunity to connect with nature and the world. Pupils value opportunities to pause and reflect. This dedicated time allows them to process what they have learned and consider its significance.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is an important part of school life. It provides a daily opportunity for pupils and adults to gather and grow spiritually. Worship is enjoyable, calming and relevant to pupils' lives. It enables them to make good choices, show kindness and understand the school's vision more deeply. It offers a space for reflection, prayer and spiritual growth rooted in the Christian vision. Pupils gain an understanding of Bible stories by playing an active part, sharing ideas and responses. As a result, they are able to consider the relevance to the challenges of everyday life. One pupil explained that learning about Bible stories helped them, saying 'It helps me use forgiveness in daily life.' Opportunities to explore faith and personal spirituality through prayer, quiet moments and song positively influence attitudes. This extends beyond collective worship and into classroom spaces, giving time for stillness and contemplation. Partnerships with local clergy provide pupils with opportunities to experience and understand festivals and events within the Christian calendar. This enriches their knowledge and deepens their spiritual awareness.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Strong partnerships with the Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust enhance the life of this Church school. The partnership with trust colleagues, creates a supportive, caring network that deepens the vision's impact and fosters a sense of belonging. Pupils demonstrate a deep understanding of what it means to care for others in their school. They are encouraged to share their views and ideas to make positive changes. They are keen to have an influence on how to enhance the school. For example, they collaborate with staff to find ways to reduce food waste at lunchtimes. Pupils speak confidently about the changes they have made. For example, pupils



collect suggestions on how to develop class and prayer spaces. As a result, chill spaces have been created to provide calm times and facilitate spiritual reflection. Pupils raise funds to support charities and consider how ethical choices can protect their environment. As a result, they have designed climate change posters to save trees. However, pupils' understanding of justice is limited and they lack the knowledge and confidence to respond to injustice or act as agents of change.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum is balanced, providing pupils with the opportunity to engage with a range of worldviews and religions. It teaches core Christian concepts, provoking pupils' curiosity and deepening knowledge. For example, pupils demonstrate insight by talking confidently of the link between salvation and forgiveness. Pupils enjoy RE and recognise the importance of studying different religions as it helps them to develop greater understanding, perception and respect for others. They identify its relevance to their lives, share experiences and value the opportunity to learn about different faiths, beliefs and practices. The curriculum is enhanced with resources and guidance provided by the diocese. The revised curriculum is currently in its early stages of implementation and is gradually broadening pupils' deeper religious understanding. However, it is not fully and consistently implemented across the school. This reduces the opportunities for pupils to gain deeper knowledge of the ways people live out their beliefs.

Vision and School Culture

Wellbeing and good mental health are central to the school's vision and daily practice. Leaders create a calm and nurturing culture. Strong regular communication from the trust team is welcomed and valued by staff and leaders. They feel listened to and part of a family which contributes to their wellbeing. Relationships built through trust and respect are evident throughout the school. Bespoke pastoral support is provided for those who need it, enabling them to be ready to learn. This impacts well on pupils' mental health and wellbeing. Parents feel valued, welcomed, listened to and know their views are taken seriously. Pupils demonstrate positive behaviours and relationships in both learning and play. A range of lunchtime extra-curricular clubs enables pupils to gain enjoyment from social times. They work together building relationships through cooperation and collaboration. This is exemplified in the hall at lunchtime. Pupils are polite and supportive, valuing time to come together. Leaders and the trust prioritise staff personal growth, encouraging colleagues to pursue a range of training opportunities. Consequently, staff feel supported in their work and contribute to a positive and confident team.

Information

Address	School Road, Salford Priors, Worcestershire WR11 8XD		
Date	20 March 2026	URN	145415
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	23
Diocese	Coventry		
MAT	The Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	Barry Cockcroft		
Headteacher	Denise Gibbs Naguar		
Chair of Governors	Katie Kavanagh		
Inspector	Rhian Hollyhead		