

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Selattyn Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Glyn Road, Selattyn, Oswestry, SY10 7DH
School vision	
<p>Small School, Big Heart</p> <p>As a loving community, our vision is to nurture each individual in our care, giving them the skills, resilience and hope to succeed and flourish, both academically and spiritually in God's ever-changing world.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selattyn's Christian vision is firmly based on Bible teaching. It fosters a highly supportive environment in which relationships and well-being are central. This enables pupils and adults to live well together and thrive. • The refreshed curriculum and wide range of extracurricular activities are driven by the school's vision and values. Adaptations are personalised for pupils, especially those who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This inspires a school experience that promotes life in all its fullness. • The Christian vision lies at the heart of this small rural school and is owned and lived by the Selattyn community. It underpins key decisions that are taken by leaders and governors, enabling pupils and adults to flourish. • Strong partnerships between the Diocese of Lichfield and the local church have impacted positively on collective worship. Pupils and adults experience varied and meaningful worship that links directly to the school's vision and values. • Religious education (RE) is knowledgeably led. This is underpinned by the vision and builds on prior learning. As a result, there is a skilfully designed, well-balanced, engaging curriculum. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the scope of pupils' understanding of justice and responsibility. This is so that they are able to go further in making ethical choices and being agents of change. • Develop a shared, common language for spirituality. This will enable the school community to explore its meaning and impact on their lives. • Extend opportunities for pupils to explore a greater range of Christian worship and practice. This will broaden their understanding of this as a living worldwide faith. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>True to the first words of the vision, Selattyn provides a warm welcome. As a result, the school is valued by pupils, parents, members of the parish church and the community. The Christian vision is at the heart of the school. It drives the decisions made and actions taken by the headteacher, governors and staff. The impact of these can be seen in the school's curriculum, wider opportunities for pupils and collective worship. Six values, each aligned to a Bible story, bring the vision to life. Members of the school are right to recognise how the refreshed vision builds on existing strengths and future aspirations. Consequently, it is ambitious and meets the needs of the community. The vision commits to nurturing each individual in the school's care. It achieves this through pupils' strong sense of belonging and feeling valued. The passion of staff to enable this shines through.</p>	

Therefore, the combination of the vision and values, decisions taken, and positive relationships results in pupils and adults flourishing.

The curriculum is strongly inspired by the school's vision and values. Recently reviewed, and supported by a range of extracurricular activities, it is effective in meeting the learning needs of pupils. Inspired by its vision, staff have developed a school definition of spirituality and begun work to implement this. Training provided by the diocesan advisor empowers staff to promote spiritual opportunities for pupils. However, pupils are unable to draw on a common language to talk about spirituality. They struggle to verbalise how their experiences impact on their lives. As a result of learning walks and pupil conversations, governors have a clear view of the school's many strengths. This enables them to evaluate effectively and acknowledge where the vision and values are making a difference. Staff know each individual child well. Through deploying resources that target individual need, there is now greater pupil independence, with pupils feeling loved and supported.

The Christian vision informs the worship life of the school. Diocesan support has strengthened the provision of collective worship, which is carefully planned and reviewed. Pupils and adults are enabled to grow spiritually through a range of worship experiences each week. As a result, a stronger understanding of the school's Christian values is deepening. Strong links and support from the vicar and local church also enrich worship. This is highly valued by pupils, parents, staff and governors, especially when pupils lead Sunday services and support Café Church. Worship within school is inclusive and invitational. The refurbished hall creates a venue where stillness permeates. This allows those involved space to engage in the experience offered and reflect on what it means to them. The pupil-led worship committee has inspired pupils to write their own prayers. These are shared in worship and throughout the day, which is leading to a deeper understanding of prayer. The spiritual space on the playground creates opportunities for the pupils to spend time quietly reflecting. This is highly valued as a safe, calm space during social times.

Guided by the Christian vision and the school's Respect Code, staff and pupils are treated well. Adults pride themselves on knowing and understanding each pupil. This results in personalised approaches. These ensure that individuals, including those who are vulnerable and / or disadvantaged, succeed and flourish academically and spiritually. Based on vision-inspired strong relationships between governors and staff, unequivocal support for one another is provided, especially in challenging times. Effective leadership has ensured that high quality training on Church school ethos and Christian distinctiveness is facilitated for all staff and governors. This results in them feeling supported and empowered in their roles. An effective personal and social education curriculum upskills pupils to talk about their worries and feelings. Consequently, they are able to raise their concerns knowing that staff will support them with care and compassion. The impact of learning in different groups leads to wider friendships forming and positive behaviour throughout the school being strengthened. The Christian vision and values are central to the school's weekly newsletter, providing parents opportunities to interact with them. This is seen in action through the highly valued question of the week that provokes lively philosophical debate amongst families. As a result, a significant contribution is made to enable pupils and adults to thrive.

Selattyn's culture of justice and responsibility is developing due to the school's partnership with the diocese. Through the vision, God's ever-changing world is central to the school's work.

Opportunities to learn about diversity and exposure to carefully selected texts enables pupils to explore issues surrounding individual freedom and rights. Currently these experiences are limited, and pupils find it difficult to confidently articulate their thoughts. Skilful guidance by staff encourages pupils to find their voice and take on responsibility. The impact of this can be seen in the growing confidence of the School Council, the Selattyn Helpers, and the Worship Committee. There are strong foundations for the pupils to develop their ability to make ethical choices and be

agents of change. The mutually beneficial partnership with the church strengthens the community and promotes the feeling of belonging and being valued.

RE reflects the school vision and meets the requirements for the subject as a Church school. The headteacher and governors ensure that RE is prioritised. The reviewed curriculum is robust and underpinned by the Christian vision and values. As a result, pupils are challenged to deepen their knowledge of key Christian beliefs. Big questions inspire pupils to engage in philosophical conversations. Strong links with the vicar and local church enhance the teaching of RE. Year 6 pupils refer to this when talking about the trinity. Informed choices have been made about which faiths and worldviews to include. A recent visit by an imam enables pupils to experience diversity first hand. However, at this stage there remain limited opportunities to explore a sufficiently wide range of Christian worship and practice. Staff and governors benefit from comprehensive, quality training to upskill them. This results in purposeful monitoring and evaluation. It means that there is an informed, shared view for further development of the RE curriculum.

The inspection findings indicate that Selattyn Church of England VC Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
School	Selattyn Church of England VC Primary School	Inspection date	10 June 2024
URN	123499	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	81
Headteacher	Ross Shepherd		
Chair of Governors	Nicola Hill		
Inspector	Helen Robertson	No.	c.23/24