



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

### Huthwaite All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School

Address Common Road, Huthwaite, Sutton in Ashfield, United Kingdom, NG17 2JR

How effective is the school’s distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

**Overall grade** **Excellent**

**The impact of collective worship** **Excellent**

**The effectiveness of religious education (RE)** **Good**

#### School’s vision

Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God.  
Adapted from the Gospel of John.

#### Key findings

- The inspirational headteacher and all leaders effectively demonstrate the impact of the school’s vision based on the gospel of John. This vision is deeply embedded and shapes the school so that it transforms lives.
- The school is recognized by the whole community as a centre of unremitting support and unconditional love. Every child and member of staff grows to be the best they can be through ‘the grace and love of God’. Pupils challenge injustice locally and are beginning to think about world issues.
- School leaders work with other Church schools to lead innovative practice ‘opening hearts and minds’ beyond the school.
- Collective Worship is the very heartbeat of the school and raises hope and aspiration daily. Relationships with the church and community are exceptionally strong and seen as the ‘heart of Huthwaite’.
- Religious education (RE) is well led and planned. Pupils enjoy RE because they are taught in an engaging way and enabled to flourish. Teachers are refining their strategies to ensure progress for all.

#### Areas for development

- To explore age-appropriate ways of teaching pupils about global issues of justice so that they grow to be courageous advocates for the wider world.
- To continue to moderate outcomes in RE within school and with others to develop effective strategies which enable pupils of all abilities to demonstrate progress.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

### Inspection findings

This is an excellent school with a Christian vision which dramatically enhances the lives of everyone. Leaders, including governors, effectively demonstrate the living out of the vision for 'Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God'. They have made bold decisions to put in place structures which support pupils and families in challenging circumstances. Everyone is welcome here and policies and practices reflect this. A desire to provide the best opportunities and life chances drives decisions to manage the pre-school and to apply to join the Diocesan multi-academy trust. All Saints is in a formal collaboration with another Church Infant school and works with local Church schools informally to lead outstanding practice. This small school generously seconds staff and supports other schools so that those beyond Huthwaite can flourish. Leaders also work intensively to train new teachers in school. The transformative impact of the vision can be seen in the number of staff who have begun as trainees or volunteers. Induction and professional development are a high priority. Staff feel 'continually challenged in a positive way and in a culture of love, acceptance and support'. The executive headteacher inspires the whole school family. She ensures that 'grace' and 'love' drive all decisions. Governors are fully involved in support and challenge for the school. Staff believe they 'will always stand up for the right thing to do'. This was seen during the pandemic when they supported the school in opening to as many pupils as possible.

The school is a centre of excellence. Leaders are developing innovative teaching and learning for young children through a research project with Nottingham University. Inclusion in its widest sense is seen as pupils who have struggled in other settings are welcomed and loved so that they make significant progress. The school are ambassadors for Achievement for All and their belief in this premise has enabled the successful development of structured conversations with parents. This has facilitated the 'opening of hearts and minds' and unlocking barriers to learning. During the pandemic bespoke packages of learning were delivered virtually and through home visits. All staff worked tirelessly to ensure that progress continued and families were supported. Parents feel that staff always 'go the extra mile' and staff are determined that all pupils are enabled to flourish. There is significant evidence of the opportunities provided for spiritual growth in the curriculum. The impact is seen through records of the children's reflections, which include their appreciation of 'calm and peacefulness'. Aspiration is high on the agenda. Opportunities beyond the classroom are wide-ranging including individual music lessons, safe cycling and residential for Year 2 pupils.

The school's vision based on 'grace' and 'love' guides the relationships within school and with the community. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect even when difficult conversations are necessary. Staff, governors, parents and pupils experience a culture of care and encouragement where unconditional love ensures hope. There are many examples of the tangible ways in which staff and families have been supported before and during the pandemic. Through these difficult times compassionate care for every family was only possible because relationships were strong and effective systems in place. Governors had already taken the ethical decision to employ a pastoral leader. This meant that she was proactive immediately in leading support along with all staff. Swift action meant that situations were prevented from escalating during an isolating time when the school was the only contact. These exceptional links have resulted in very good attendance now and continued avenues of support for the well-being of all.

Pupils explain the school's vision in an age-appropriate way. They link their welcome to newcomers and their desire to help others to the teachings of Jesus. Their knowledge of Bible stories is extensive. Pupils are eager to talk about their fundraising for Children in Need and 24 Acts of Kindness for Lent. They are beginning to consider social action in terms of recycling and sharing Easter eggs with the local Food Bank. The 'HeartSmart' for Church Schools resource enables these young children to relate their actions to scripture. Catchphrases like 'Don't forget to let love in' support children as young as four to explain the vision. Pupil leaders are proud of their role as playground friends and anti-bullying champions. They are determined to stop anything that they see as unfair. Systems to protect pupils are extremely robust.

Leaders ensure that the strong, longstanding relationship between the school and local church continues to grow and develop. The commitment is shown through the fortnightly school worship in church attended by many parents and

grandparents. One parent described the school and church partnership as the ‘heart of Huthwaite’. The incumbent is an important member of the school community and with governors supported pastorally during the pandemic. Pupils are fully involved in worship. They light the candles, which they say represents ‘Jesus, light of the world’, join enthusiastically in inclusive worship songs and play percussion. The careful planning of worship, informed by national guidance, ensures that pupils’ knowledge of the church year is extensive. Prayer punctuates the school day with time to reflect in the morning, at lunchtime and at home time. Worship is recognized as the very heartbeat of the school and raises hope and aspiration daily. The impact on staff is a feeling of calm, which ‘anchors the day’. Pupils offer written and spontaneous prayer, explaining that ‘you can talk to God everywhere and anytime’. The Lord’s Prayer is said with gusto. Pupils describe how it shows we should offer forgiveness to others and be thankful for what we have. The centrality of worship ‘opens hearts and minds’ and is fully inclusive. Parents from the different faiths represented in school are certain that the messages shared are ‘encompassing for us all’ and ‘no-one feels left out’. During the pandemic the executive headteacher led worship effectively on Zoom for both schools.

Driven by the vision to ‘open hearts and minds’, balanced RE is taught well using the Diocesan syllabus and the ‘Understanding Christianity’ resource. RE was offered as a priority during the pandemic. The RE leader accesses quality local and national training which she disseminates within school and to local networks. These are recognized by the Diocese as a model of good practice. Pupils enjoy RE and flourish through a whole range of practical activities. Opportunities to explore religion and belief through personal experience are embraced. One family who were celebrating Eid shared food and artefacts in school. Outcomes of RE are recorded in beautiful class books. Through these children take pride in their achievements.

The Christian vision at All Saints Infant School is fundamental to the flourishing of all. Everyone contributes to ‘opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God’.



**The effectiveness of RE is**

**Good**

Staff are supported to deliver engaging lessons and strive to improve their practice so that pupils flourish in their learning. RE is consistently graded good. Lively sessions were observed at inspection when children were immersed in Easter. Activities included using artefacts for discussion and an exploration of the origins of the Passover. Questioning is incisive and pupils respond by thinking deeply. Teachers are refining strategies to ensure that pupils of all abilities demonstrate individual progress.

### Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	10 March 2022	URN	122824
Date of previous inspection	22 January 2015		
School status	Voluntary aided Infant school	NOR	80
Diocese	Southwell & Nottingham		
Headteacher	Jo Redfern		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is in line with national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	The headteacher is the executive head of both All Saints and another local Church of England Infant School. The local pre-school has been run by the school since 2014. All Saints has applied for an academy order to join the Diocesan multi-academy trust.		
Inspector’s name	Heather Rattenberry	No.	964