

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Woodthorpe Church of England Primary School

Vision

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Woodthorpe 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

- Inspired by the vision, positive relationships are central to school life and reflect genuine care and compassion. Staff work collaboratively and place pupils at the heart of their work. As a result, pupils and adults feel valued, listened to and able to flourish.
- There is a clear and carefully planned relational approach to inclusion. This leads to courageous decisions and strategies, ensuring pupils belong and achieve.
- The vision inspires work around justice and responsibility. Pupils increasingly understand injustice and the positive impact they can make locally and further afield.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum inspires and challenges pupils. They build on prior knowledge and confidently articulate their understanding of religions around the world.

Development Points

- Develop a deeper understanding of spirituality within the curriculum. This is to ensure that purposeful opportunities are planned to help pupils recognise and develop their own spirituality.
- Develop clear systems to evaluate the impact of the vision on pupils and adults. This is to consistently inform leaders of the ways the vision leads to flourishing.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

At Woodthorpe, the Christian vision shapes strategic direction and daily life. As a warm, welcoming and loving school at the heart of its locality, leaders articulate the vision with clarity and conviction. They ensure that it informs decision making at every level. Consequently, the vision is not merely displayed but actively lived out by pupils and staff. Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT) emphasises 'life in all its fulness'. This complements the school's focus on encouragement helping adults and pupils to flourish. Link committee members and the trust monitor church school effectiveness. This structure provides regular opportunities for support and challenge. However, leaders do not evaluate the vision's impact through a systematic and measurable approach. This limits clear evidence of how the vision supports pupils and adults to flourish. Flowing naturally from the vision are the core values of care, aspiration, resilience and enjoyment (CARE). They provide a shared language for behaviour, relationships and expectations. Adults model these values through calm, respectful interactions and attentive pastoral care. As a result, pupils feel safe, known and cared for. They approach learning with confidence, enthusiasm and a strong sense of belonging.

Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision drives a carefully planned and purposeful curriculum. Leaders are unwavering in their commitment to ensuring that learning is relevant, ambitious and enriching. It enables pupils to make meaningful connections between themselves, the community and the wider world. Enrichment includes community projects, visits to places of worship and links with a school in India. Living the vision encourages an inclusive environment where pupils are known, valued and supported. Within this close-knit community, a strong sense of belonging is intentionally nurtured, enabling pupils to develop confidence and self-worth. Staff work compassionately to remove barriers and ensure that all pupils flourish academically and socially. Provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is personalised. This secures sustained progress. Skilled adults adapt curriculum pathways and provide targeted interventions which help pupils prepare for the next stage. Pupils speak confidently about spirituality and understand its significance. However, opportunities for spiritual development are not yet sufficiently embedded to deepen and extend their spiritual understanding.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a valued part of daily life at Woodthorpe. It provides opportunities for pupils and adults to grow together in faith, understanding and reflection. Worship is carefully planned to deepen biblical understanding and reinforce the school's vision. It also reinforces the school's CARE values. Pupils know a wide range of Bible stories and explain how these influence their attitudes, choices and relationships. Members of the Worship Squad help lead and shape worship. This develops leadership and gives pupils a strong sense of ownership. Throughout the day, there are dedicated moments for reflection. This allows pupils to pause, consider deeper questions and make connections between biblical narratives, the vision and their own lives. Pupils and adults are warmly invited into prayer, reflection or stillness. This invitational approach creates a nurturing atmosphere. Consequently, pupils develop confidence in expressing their thoughts and beliefs. They are supported to develop as reflective, compassionate and thoughtful individuals.

Vision and School Culture

Living the vision encourages a caring and inclusive culture where pupils and adults are supported and valued. Encouragement shapes relationships and daily interactions across the school. Pupils explain how encouraging others helps everyone to succeed. During social times, pupils demonstrate



kindness and compassion towards one another. Pupils readily support others at break times and refer to the vision when explaining their actions. Relationships throughout the school are exceptionally strong. Staff know pupils well and respond sensitively to individual needs. Pupils are happy, confident and feel a strong sense of belonging. Thoughtful adaptations, including quieter spaces, support pupils' wellbeing and help them thrive. Effective collaboration with other Trust schools supports continual improvement. Strong partnerships with the church, MAT and diocese, enrich provision and strengthen experiences for pupils and adults.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Woodthorpe's vision fosters a compassionate culture where pupils care for others and contribute positively to their community. Older pupils willingly support younger ones, demonstrating maturity, empathy and kindness in their relationships. They understand that differences of opinion can be approached respectfully and speak confidently about the importance of listening to others. As a result, a strong culture of shared purpose and responsibility is evident throughout the school. Pupils recognise justice as an important part of their daily lives and understand that it means treating others fairly and standing up for what is right. They apply this understanding in their relationships and choices. They show a willingness to challenge unfairness and ensure that others are treated with dignity and respect. As a result, a strong culture of shared purpose and responsibility is evident throughout the school. Pupils understand that growth comes through determination and encouragement. This was demonstrated through a class project exploring the qualities of effective young leaders, culminating in a community litter pick and a visit to a local care home. This shows that pupils' learning about responsibility leads to practical action. Links with a school in India deepen pupils' understanding of injustice and inequality. They consider how circumstances of birth can shape opportunities. They recognise their responsibility to make a positive difference locally and further afield.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum is ambitious, well-structured and appropriately challenging. It enables pupils to build on prior knowledge and deepen their understanding over time. Adaptations are made so that pupils with SEND have full access to RE. Pupils ask thoughtful questions about faith and belief. They explore the diverse ways people express what they believe. Younger pupils recall Bible stories confidently and explain how these shape their thinking. Older pupils consider differing viewpoints including contrasting beliefs about the creation of the world. Discussion and debate deepen reflection and help pupils to express and respect differing perspectives. RE leadership provides valued guidance and support to colleagues. Regular monitoring of RE, including work scrutiny, helps leaders identify strengths and areas for development. Collaboration with the diocese strengthens curriculum development. Pupils speak confidently about religions and beliefs and demonstrate high levels of respect for diversity. Visits to places of worship enrich learning and deepen pupils' understanding of lived faith.

Information

Address	Seymour Lane, Mastin Moor, Derbyshire S43 3DA		
Date	21 September 2026	URN	147107
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	136
Diocese	Derby		
MAT	Derby Diocesan Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	Sarah Louise Hardman Charles		
Headteacher	Matt Loader (Executive Headteacher) Elaine Gamble (Head of School)		
Chair of Governors	Sue Beckett (Acting Chair)		
Inspector	Hannah Lambert		