

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

Abberley Parochial Voluntary Controlled Primary School			
Address	Apostles Oak, Abberley, Worcestershire, WR6 6AA		
Date of inspection	29 January 2020	Status of school	Voluntary controlled primary
Diocese	<b>Worcester</b>	URN	116780

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Additional Judgement</b>	The impact of collective worship	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Good</b>

### School context

Abberley is a primary school with 105 pupils on roll. Almost all pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is significantly below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is broadly in line with national averages. The headteacher joined the school in April 2019.

### The school's Christian vision

Rooted and grounded in love. The power to comprehend. Filled with the fullness of God.  
Based on Ephesians 3: 17-19

### Key findings

- Under the leadership of the new headteacher, Abberley has developed rapidly as a Church of England school. The new vision, and theology which inspire it, have a positive impact on pupils' aspirations and enthusiasm to learn. However, formal systems to monitor the impact of the vision are at an early stage.
- This is a community built on love. Adults and pupils are upheld and nurtured to be the best they can be. This love extends to others and pupils are motivated to support a range of good causes.
- The curriculum is rich in opportunities for spiritual development. Pupils have a growing confidence to explore and talk of what spirituality means to them.
- Religious education (RE) gives pupils a good grounding in the main concepts of Christianity and other faiths. The subject makes an important contribution to flourishing although pupils have a limited understanding that Christianity is itself a diverse and global faith.
- Collective worship unites the school community and reinforces the understanding of the vision and values. Pupils are confident to lead worship and delight in doing so regularly.

### Areas for development

- Leaders, including governors, to embed the vision in systems for monitoring so its impact is captured and explicitly drives improvement as a Church school.
- Ensure collective worship invites those present to participate in prayer, as their views determine, so all may be present with integrity.
- Review the curriculum so pupils have a deeper understanding of diversity in the wider world and knowledge that Christianity is a multi-cultural global faith.

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**

Abberley school is securely built on its vision to love, to empower learning and provide life in all its fullness for pupils and adults. Considered and thoughtful work to develop the explicitly Christian vision, values and learning 'attributes' means pupils are given the best possible experience and start in their education. While the vision is new, pupils are confident to talk of it and of how the values of wisdom and courage support their learning and actions. As a governor said, 'God is the door opener, opening the door of opportunity.' This renewed focus is due to the headteacher who, ably supported by staff, has opened his heart and mind to leading a Church school. Governors are to be commended for recruiting a leader of this calibre and potential to strengthen the Christian foundations. However, areas identified for improvement at the last denominational inspection remain incomplete. Governors are now aware that this was a weakness on their part and express a new impetus to address them, for example establishing the Christian distinctiveness committee. Leaders know the school well and are very supportive. Formal systems to capture the impact of the vision, so it drives improvements, are not in place.

The impact of the vision of love is best seen in the enthusiasm pupils have for their lessons. Good attendance is testament to pupils' enjoyment of school. A vibrant and rich curriculum inspires learning and underpins the high results in national tests. The vision to give the power to comprehend is a powerful motivator to persevere when work is challenging. RE makes a good contribution to the rich curriculum. Pupils have a grasp of the main concepts of Christianity and other religions. However, they are less aware that Christianity is a world-wide, living faith. In a mono-cultural community, leaders are aware that the curriculum must extend pupils' horizons. At present, it provides more limited opportunities to gain a wider perspective on modern society. Assessment confirms that pupils make strong progress in their knowledge and use of key vocabulary linked to RE. It is notable that some disadvantaged pupils make more progress in RE than in other subjects, which confirms that the subject supports flourishing. Older pupils talk with impressive knowledge of religious concepts. One said, 'Grace is when someone holds you up when you are down.' Another said of sacrifice, 'It is losing something to benefit something or someone.' Care is also taken to explore spirituality. Pupils talk of the recent work exploring spiritual development, 'It was always floating around school, but we were not sure what it meant. We know more since September.'

Those who need additional support find this sensitively provided by all staff. They are genuinely interested in their charges and help them overcome barriers to learning. Parents affirm this and are appreciative of the regular communication with them and of how approachable all staff are. They state that the headteacher listens and acts on their feedback. Specialist training on promoting good mental health is effective. Innovative sessions are offered at lunchtimes for those pupils who wish to share any worries. Due to the wholehearted commitment to the vision, behaviour is very positive. Pupils are safe, feel secure and delight in their friendships, including friends in other classes. Dignity and respect are given to all and, consequently, reciprocated. Members of staff are valued, and their skills enhanced by high quality professional development, including regular support from the Diocese. Staff work together to bring the vision to reality. One said, 'The vision and values mean we work as a team towards a common goal, we aspire as a staff to be the best we can be for the children.'

An outworking of the vision is the many projects pupils identify and support in the service of others. Older pupils fulfil leadership roles with skill and determination. It was delightful to speak to the school council who had specifically asked to meet the inspector. Raising awareness of the work of the Salvation Army and local foodbank has encouraged pupils to feel they make a difference to those in need. Pupils are also keenly aware of environmental issues, often reminding adults of the urgency of these. The leaves on the 'show the love' tree capture pupils' views on what they would miss in the world.

Collective worship binds the school community each day. It is highly valued. Worship is planned to explore the vision and values, and to relate Bible teaching to current events. Singing is central to worship and is both tuneful and uplifting. Prayer is a regular feature of the school day. A pupil commented that, 'Prayer shapes your life and helps worries to go away.' However, there is currently an expectation that all present will pray, rather than be invited to do so. The incumbent and lay minister from the parish church are regular visitors to the school and provide both practical and prayerful support. The 'Open the Book' worships are eagerly anticipated. As a result,

pupils have a good awareness of a range of Bible stories and the main festivals in the Church's calendar. They are also familiar with some Anglican traditions, such as lighting three candles to represent the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The 'CREW' group from Year 5 and 6 lead worship for younger children. This makes worship fun and engaging for all ages. The 'CREW' collect prayers that children have written and make them into one prayer to share in worship. Pupil input into leading and offering feedback on worship has grown significantly and reflects the vision to empower.

Governors and the headteacher rightly state that there is more to do to further the Christian character of Abberley. However, the commitment of all members of the school community, supported by expertise from the Diocese, means this school is more faithful to its foundations as a Church school. These foundations are now secure and ready to build upon.

Headteacher	Joel Turvey
Inspector's name and number	Allyson Taylor 768