

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Dunchurch Boughton Church of England Junior Academy

Vision

Encourage one another and build one another up (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Together we are stronger.

Dunchurch Boughton Church of England Junior Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The Christian vision fits perfectly to the needs of the school community. It drives and guides the work of the school, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- The expertise and dedication of leaders ensure that pupils and adults are valued and are treated well, including those deemed to be vulnerable and/or disadvantaged.
- An embedded and shared understanding of spirituality enriches spiritual growth across the school community.
- Leaders and teachers have acquired a good knowledge of the new religious education (RE) syllabus, supported by the trust and diocesan training. This ensures that pupils gain sequential knowledge about a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Partnerships, including those with local churches and Christian groups, are strong. This enhances pupils' spiritual development and wellbeing.

Development Points

- Facilitate opportunities for pupils to explore justice issues beyond the school community so that they are equipped to make a positive difference to the lives of others.
- Develop class-based worship so it has a greater impact on the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.



Inspection Findings

The refreshed Christian vision instigates the school's purpose and direction. Its biblical underpinning in Thessalonians inspires individuals to encourage each other, knowing that 'Together we are stronger.' The vision was inspired by a painting given to the school on the day it opened. The painting is on display in the school hall. Its presence motivates members of the school community to support each other. Pupils live out the vision and encourage each other in their learning and at playtimes. The vision helps staff and pupils to embrace the recent changes in leadership. It guides the school community so that all pupils flourish, including vulnerable pupils who have recently joined the school. The school joined the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust in 2023. The trust's vision of 'pursuing life in all its fullness' resonates with the Dunchurch vision. Trust leaders have a regular presence in school. This makes staff feel valued. The successful partnership with the trust helps pupils and adults to thrive by providing support and ongoing professional development for staff. Trust leaders know that if adults are flourishing, pupils will also thrive. Supported by the trust, the school confidently expresses its Christian identity. It is lived out through carefully considered systems, routines and practices. Dedicated governors have received training from the Coventry Diocesan Board of Education. Consequently, governors know how to best support the school to enable pupils and adults to flourish.

Dunchurch is on a journey with a new curriculum. This curriculum reflects the school's vision enabling staff to be the best they can be. The curriculum encourages pupils to embrace challenge, helping them to know more and remember more. The vision drives a broad curriculum and an extensive extracurricular offer. Spanish, cookery, dance, dodgeball and musical theatre help pupils to build important life skills and improve their self-esteem. Leaders create excellent partnerships with local churches. Volunteers from a local church lead an 'Explore the Bible' club. Led by the vision, leaders ensure that there are no barriers to enabling pupils to participate in extracurricular activities. Pupils enjoy off-site experiences such as trips to Mary Arden's farm, a county museum and the sea life centre. This stimulates curiosity and deepens an understanding of the world around them. The school's vision ensures that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) also thrive. Staff are proactive and work in partnership with parents. Nurture groups and specialist provision are instrumental in making the school's commitment to inclusion a reality. Targeted training equips staff to adapt lessons for pupils with SEND. Parents praise the school and know that their children are supported. Spiritual development is an intrinsic part of the curriculum at Dunchurch. Inspired by the school's vision, leaders ensure that pupils are supported to express their growing spirituality. Using the language of 'ows, wows and nows,' pupils feel confident in talking about their spirituality across a range of subjects and through prayer.

Whole school collective worship is carefully planned with high-quality resources. It inspires pupils and adults to live out the school's vision in practice. Worship draws on biblical teachings and stories, helping pupils and staff apply these lessons to their daily lives and choices. Training from the trust and diocese is used strategically to enhance worship, contributing to its ongoing development. Led by the vision, leaders ensure that the whole school community feels welcome and comfortable in worship. A pupil commented that 'it's ok to have a different religion in collective worship.' Another pupil reflected that 'I join in with prayers, but I don't have to.' Consequently, pupils and adults are inspired and encouraged in their individual spiritual journeys. Spirituality is expressed through a variety of ways. Pupils and adults are given time to think, pray and wonder. Anglican traditions of worship are followed and key festivals are celebrated. Partnerships with local churches further enhance collective worship and members of the clergy frequently lead a whole school worship. However, a variation of experiences during class worship limits opportunities for spiritual flourishing.



Led by the Christian vision, leaders create a caring and inclusive environment where students and adults thrive. They have established a culture that prioritises the academic, personal and spiritual development of each individual. The Christian vision is very much lived out as adults and pupils encourage each other. This makes people feel 'loved, valued and cared for.' Pupils' behaviour across the school is exemplary. They treat each other with respect and kindness and talk of the care adults take to listen and help them. Leaders appreciate staff members' contributions and support them professionally and personally. Parents and carers feel supported, accepted and included, as their concerns and views are actively heard and addressed. Parents are grateful to the dedicated staff for their support and guidance. The mental health in schools team visits school to promote good mental health. Pupils also have beneficial access to much-loved therapy dogs. This helps to reduce stress, increase social skills and enhance wellbeing. The Christian vision is lived out by specialised staff who provide effective pastoral support for pupils with SEND, including reduced timetables, sensory trails and the opportunity to attend calm club at lunchtime.

The school's vision of encouraging motivates leaders to create a respectful culture of responsibility to each other. Pupils make a difference through fundraising and have responsibilities at school to help within their school community. For example, the eco club organised a litter-pick around school. Sports ambassadors encouraged staff to buy more PE equipment. Staff give significant responsibilities to elected pupil representatives who demonstrate a range of leadership qualities. Play leaders, head pupils, music leaders, diversity ambassadors and mental health champions all take on responsibilities to make a difference. Although pupils have a sense of responsibility towards others in school, they do not look beyond the school community to tackle injustice.

School leaders prioritise RE. It is taught weekly by class teachers and enjoyed by pupils. Active partnerships with the trust and diocese have strengthened staff confidence in teaching RE through professional development opportunities. The new religion and worldviews curriculum balances Christianity with other worldviews, promoting inclusivity and giving pupils a broader understanding of diverse faiths. Pupils consider RE to be an important subject that teaches them to respect the beliefs of others. The curriculum is structured to provide a progressive understanding of a range of diverse religious and non-religious worldviews. Consequently, pupils are better prepared for life in modern Britain. Pupils have a secure knowledge of Christian belief and practice. They appreciate the global context of Christianity. Pupils can talk about a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. They are knowledgeable about theist, atheist and agnostic beliefs as well as being able to recall some Hindu and Muslim beliefs. Within lessons, pupils reflect about their own worldview and their experiences.

Considering that teachers have only just begun using the new religion and worldviews curriculum, pupils' knowledge about religious and non-religious worldviews is good. The subject leader effectively monitors and evaluates the quality of teaching and learning which informs future training and planning. Support is offered to staff to ensure that the quality of RE is enhanced. Regular assessments provide opportunities to track pupil progress and inform teaching and learning.

Information

Address	Dew Close, Dunchurch, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 6NE		
Date	3 February 2025	URN	149772
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	261
Diocese/District	Coventry Diocesan Board of Education		
MAT/Federation	The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Lynn Lee		
Chair of Governors	Mike Nokes		
Chair of Trust	Barry Cockcroft		
Inspector	Cressida Dolphin		