

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Codnor Community Church of England Primary School

Vision

“Let your light shine!” Matthew 5:16

Learn, strive and achieve in a caring Christian environment.

Codnor 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.

Strengths

- Codnor is a place where pupils and adults are understood and nurtured. The deeply embedded Christian vision enables them to flourish.
- A carefully designed curriculum is inclusive and allows the vision to permeate through it. As a result, pupils are given opportunities to show their light and learn about the light of others.
- Passionate, and dedicated leadership underpins the culture of the school creating a deeply caring Christian environment. At all levels, leaders are dedicated to Codnor school.
- There is an active culture of justice and responsibility which is embedded throughout the curriculum. Pupils understand how their little voice can make a big difference.
- Pupils value religious education (RE). The curriculum is very effective in enabling pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity.

Development Points

- Embed a shared understanding of the language of spirituality. This is so that pupils and adults in school can communicate their spiritual growth with confidence
- Build upon the recent changes made to the RE curriculum. This is to enable pupils to extend their understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision at Codnor has been carefully considered by leaders and has been woven throughout the curriculum. Because of this, pupils actively look for ways in which they can 'let their light shine'. From their earliest days in school, pupils understand how they can shine brightly, just like the candle flame. Older pupils make comparisons with Jesus as the light of the world, the impact He had and what they can achieve. The vision is widely owned and is celebrated by the community it serves. Supportive governors work with the school to monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision so it remains central to all that they do. Values such as friendship and courage support the vision of the school. This can be clearly seen in the behaviour of the pupils at different times of the day. Throughout the school, strong emphasis is placed on pupil and adult well-being. Staff care deeply about each other and about the pupils in their care. This leads to strong, positive relationships.

Leaders have carefully planned a bespoke curriculum, which is permeated by the vision. Staff are passionate about the opportunities that it gives to pupils. There is a high level of access to extra-curricular activities, including trips, clubs and sporting events. These develop a sense of personal worth and potential. Achievements in all areas of school life, and those out of school, are celebrated. As a result, pupils develop in confidence, pride and the courage to further broaden their experiences. There are beautiful communal reflection spaces, echoing school values, which are very well used and highly valued by staff and pupils. Pupils talk with pride about how they have used or added to the space. They use the outside reflection area as a place 'where you can just go and sit and think' further supporting their spiritual development. However, there is not a shared language of spirituality and this restricts understanding and conversation about it. This means that there are some missed opportunities for deepening pupils' spirituality.

Collective worship at Codnor is an integral part of school life. It is inclusive and invitational allowing pupils to engage with scripture through drama, reading and singing. Collective worship is led with pride and sensitivity by pupils in a newly formed worship team. They have a strong understanding of why worship should be invitational and reflective. These occasions enable spirituality to be nurtured. Staff welcome opportunities to join together as a school community. A number of visitors support lively and engaging collective worship. Themes are well planned around school values so that all staff are supported to deliver high quality collective worship. The values, stories, songs and prayers intentionally go through the school day and are carried beyond the school. There is a strong relationship with the local church. Pupils value the chance to visit, appreciating a time to pause and reflect, thus deepening spiritual flourishing.

Staff model excellent care of each other. Respectful and trusting relationships allow teachers to create bold and creative learning opportunities in their classroom so that they can meet the needs of the pupils. Parents value the way in which 'nothing is too much trouble'. This has led to strong trust between parents and staff. Staff, in turn, value parents and pupils giving time and support with generosity and enthusiasm. Wellbeing is a high priority and regular pupil questionnaires identify those who might need some additional support. A wellbeing club nurtures these pupils, providing strategies to support mental health and calming opportunities. During difficult times the school pulls together providing both practical and emotional support. Breaktimes are calm and pupils play very well together. They are proud to share that 'everyone gets on well in our school'. When older pupils notice others who are on their own, they are quick to play with them or help them to get involved in an activity.



Staff are overwhelmingly supportive and appreciative of each other, resulting in a strong and effective team. Staff turnover is low, demonstrating the value that they feel in their work. Encouraging words and acts of kindness are commonplace. Codnor is a community that wants the best for each other. Staff are united in their commitment to the pupils in their care. There is a wholehearted and passionate commitment to meet specific needs and offer appropriate nurturing and support. Interventions are effective and pupils talk keenly about how things like Lego therapy have helped them to be more confident.

The curriculum encourages a culture of justice. Pupils are given opportunities throughout the curriculum to think about the impact that they can have. The phrase 'a little voice can make a big difference' is commonplace. Pupils learn about people who have made a difference on a local, national and global scale. In turn they take action to impact upon issues they value and see as unjust. Pupils and adults support charities with whom they have personal connections. Pupils are trusted and encouraged to lead initiatives and so become agents of change. They take age-appropriate action. Writing to companies, taking part in a debate and leading an assembly, develop pupils' ability to make a difference. Charitable activities demonstrate faith in action such as, fundraising and support for the local food bank and care packages for refugees. Inspired by the school's vision, pupils express their desire to make the world a better place.

RE is very well led and learning about Christianity is effective. Recent changes have supported staff confidence in delivering the curriculum and pupils' knowledge of Christianity. Professional development for staff is regularly and knowledgeably led. This enhances staff subject knowledge. Up to date resources facilitate relevant and well sequenced lessons. As a result, pupils talk confidently about Christianity. Whilst the planned curriculum for RE includes a range of faiths and worldviews, pupils' knowledge of them is not fully embedded. Pupils are proud of their work and enjoy their RE lessons. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported throughout the RE curriculum to access high quality learning and resources.

Information

Address	2 Whitegates, Ripley, DE5 9QD		
Date	14 November 2024	URN	131156
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	210
Diocese/District	Diocese of Derby		
Headteacher	James Blake		
Chair of Governors	Katie Bell		
Inspector	Hannah Lambert		