

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Tilston Parochial CE Primary School

Vision

‘Bringing out the Best in Everyone’

‘Encourage one another and build each other up.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Tilston Parochial Church of England Primary 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

- The well-established Christian vision is thoughtful and central to school life. It drives the strategic planning of leaders and underpins the work of the school.
- Relationships are warm and the school is welcoming. A supportive and caring culture is inspired by the school’s vision and Christian values. This ensures that pupils and adults are treated well.
- Collective worship is a central part of daily life. It gives pupils and adults time to pause, reflect and be still. Effective partnerships with the local church enrich the school’s worship life.
- Highly effective leadership of religious education (RE) ensures that pupils experience a well-crafted curriculum. Pupils, consequently, have a good knowledge of Christianity, world religions and worldviews.
- Loving, caring and nurturing relationships are a feature of this school. Staff know families and pupils extremely well. Through encouragement, pupils and adults strive to be the best they can be.

Development Points

- Strengthen the shared vocabulary of spirituality across the school so that pupils and adults are confident in extending their spiritual development.
- Enrich opportunities for pupils to challenge and act on local and global issues. This is to reinforce their understanding so that they can have influence and make a positive difference in the world.



Inspection Findings

Tilston is a small, rural primary school with a strong sense of community and belonging. The school's Christian vision, values, and chosen Bible verse are at the heart of its identity. The practice of 'building each other up' enables adults and pupils to flourish. Leaders and staff are deeply committed to ensuring that this vision is embedded across the school. Governors actively use the vision to guide strategic planning and decision making. Strong partnerships with the local church, other schools, and the diocese support the school's development. Dedicated staff provide a motivating learning environment and carefully consider individual needs, demonstrating their commitment to 'building each other up'. Parents are generous supporters and actively committed to the school's Christian vision and values. They are highly invested in enabling pupils to flourish, providing crucial resources by arranging successful social events.

Staff equip pupils, through thought-provoking lessons, to be inquisitive about the wider world. The school's environment has been sensitively developed with opportunities to reflect and experience moments of calm. An outdoor reflective space, known as 'The Pod', encourages times for spiritual development. This is illustrated in a pupil's description of how this area helps them 'know that God is holding their hand'. There are increasing occasions to experience spirituality across the wider curriculum. Biblical references on displays help pupils to focus on spiritual connections within subjects such as history and science. Pupils who are vulnerable and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are thoughtfully supported and taught to develop resilience. Extra-curricular opportunities are well-supported by pupils and careful consideration is given to broadening experiences. This ensures the curriculum is meaningful and inclusive.

Collective worship is a treasured part of daily life, uniting the school community in reflection, prayer, and celebration. Pupils show reverence and actively participate, with values ambassadors taking leadership roles. The school have recently agreed a definition of spirituality, which is clear and carefully thought through. However, pupils and adults are unable to use the language to express their understanding of spirituality. Pupils appreciate the chance to write prayers that they are happy to share in worship, and value these moments to pray or reflect. Spontaneous prayer is also fostered during collective worship as pupils respond to spiritual experiences. Christian symbolism, such as candles and a cross, make concepts memorable and meaningful. Singing is enthusiastic and draws the school together in their understanding of the vision and a sense of joy. Parents and carers value their inclusion in worship at church and school services. Local clergy regularly lead worship and facilitate a deeper knowledge of Bible stories through the school's Christian values. For example, the story of Daniel in the lion's den taught the pupils of the importance of always being truthful.

The school community is characterised by mutual respect, trust, and inclusivity. Strong relationships and a focus on wellbeing enable both pupils and adults to thrive. Staff make a positive, and much appreciated impact, when supporting families during difficult times. Training in mental health enhances the school's provision for resilience and emotional wellbeing, benefiting both pupils and adults. Pupils play harmoniously, and any behaviour issues are managed with forgiveness and empathy. Older pupils are positive role models and enjoy the opportunities to help younger pupils. The Christian vision creates a warm and inclusive atmosphere where adults and pupils are known well. The thoughtful support of vulnerable pupils and those with SEND makes them feel safe and valued. Focused professional development means school staff are skilful and able to provide appropriate and welcome support for pupils and families. Pre-school provision and effective transition arrangements ensure pupils settle into school quickly. Likewise, pupils leaving Tilston are fully equipped for their move to secondary school.



Pupils consciously use the Christian vision and values to guide their actions. They support charitable causes such as the local foodbank and were instrumental in improving traffic calming measures in the local community. The positive relationship with the parish church is strong and mutually beneficial, which means the wider, local community is enriched and strengthened. Pupils are motivated to help and empathise with others in school, demonstrating acts of kindness. They understand that building each other up has an impact and are inspired to act with compassion. Specifically chosen curriculum texts foster an understanding of fairness and justice. These books encourage debate and expand their understanding of issues of justice in the world beyond their locality. While these themes promote awareness, there are few opportunities for pupils to lead social action or initiate their own change-making projects. Enrichment activities and educational visits support the broadening of pupils' horizons across the curriculum. Pupils report being proud of their achievements and how they needed courage to be successful. This is highlighted in pupils developing self-confidence and demonstrating resilience during the annual residential trip.

Dedicated leaders ensure RE has a high profile in the school and provide effective opportunities to broaden cultural awareness. They ensure it holds a high status, right from the start of pupils' education. Professional development is cascaded to staff, ensuring consistency in the RE curriculum. The updated scheme is carefully planned and structured to build on prior learning and first-hand experiences where possible. The pupils enjoyed a thought-provoking Pilgrim Day at Chester Cathedral. This experience enabled them to connect their learning with lived expressions of faith. The curriculum ensures a variety of religions and worldviews are taught, including Christianity. This enriches pupils' understanding of difference and respect for diverse beliefs and cultures. Learning is structured around questions that encourage curiosity and deep thinking. Pupils consider RE important and say it helps them to grasp and carefully consider different people's beliefs and their own. Parents recognise the enrichment RE offers their children, as well as developing a clear comprehension of religious diversity, community and worldviews. As a consequence, pupils understand the subject's importance in a multi-cultural world.

Information

Address	Church Road, Tilston, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 7HB		
Date	12 June 2025	URN	111284
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	102
Diocese	Chester		
Headteacher	Kelsey Mort		
Chair of Governors	Tim Robinson		
Inspector	Anna Brooksbank		