



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

## Blue Coat Church of England School and Music College

Address Terry Road, Coventry, CV1 2BA

How effective is the school’s distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

**Overall grade**

**Excellent**

**The impact of collective worship**

**Excellent**

**The effectiveness of religious education (RE)**

**Excellent**

### School’s vision

‘Living life in all its fullness’ John 10:10

We exist to equip our students to ‘live life in all its fullness’ by providing excellent education which is distinctively Christian and inclusive of all. At the heart of this education are the values of Care, Hard work, Respect, Integrity and Servanthood, working Together for the good of all individuals, the school and wider communities.

### Key findings

- Through its deeply embedded Christian vision, Blue Coat School and Music College is exceptional in enabling pupils and adults to flourish. Dedicated and determined leaders and enthusiastic staff ensure that the vision infuses the school community. This creates excellent, positive, inclusive relationships and sustains a thriving, vibrant community through which lives are significantly enriched.
- Character development is a major focus and priority for the school. Its impact is outstanding as this is seen as pivotal in transforming pupils’ lives. Encouraging a sense of hope, aspiration and equality, this enables pupils to become resilient and confident.
- The school is compelling in its celebration of difference and diversity and in its active challenge for social justice. This impacts the whole school, wider community and Inspire Education Trust (IET). Through dedicated partnerships with faith groups and ethnic minorities, the school is excellent in promoting a positive society.
- Religious education (RE) is outstanding in key stages 3 and 4 and at A level. It is established as a flagship department. Through highly effective leadership and teaching, pupils experience a curriculum which enables them to make very strong progress and gain a clear understanding of Christianity and world faiths. Provision for sixth form core RE is developing.
- Skilfully and imaginatively developed by the inspirational chaplain, collective worship is excellent. It strongly upholds the school vision and provides varied opportunities for spiritual development and prayer. Its influence goes beyond the school through the generous sharing of collective worship resources and expertise locally and nationally.

## Areas for development

- Promote, and embed in the curriculum, a deeper, richer understanding of spirituality to enable the community to fluently explore and articulate its impact on themselves and others.
- Broaden the provision of core RE in the sixth form. This will enable pupils to extend their critical reflection upon religious, ethical and philosophical theories.
- Further extend the impact of the school vision throughout IET through sharing best practice which enables pupils and adults to flourish.

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

The deeply Christian vision, underpinned by life-enriching values, infuses and enhances every part of the life of Blue Coat School and Music College. This creates an excellent environment for learning and development, valuing and generously supporting every person as an individual child of God. Through this, pupils and adults flourish and succeed together as a highly supportive family. The school is a prominent advocate for, and active participant in Coventry Cathedral's International Cross of Nails School (ICONS) network. Its principles of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation are firmly established in the school. This creates a powerful culture and expectation of positive behaviour and excellent relationships. The school is greatly enriched by the significant difference and diversity of its pupil and adult population. The whole community is deeply cared for and able to embrace the vision, 'Living life in all its fulness'.

The inspirational headteacher, driven by the vision, is highly ambitious for everyone in the school. This stimulates strong and effective Christian leadership at all levels. Governors and trust leaders are clear about how biblical principles firmly root the vision. This motivates them to make courageous financial and moral decisions and establish ethical policies. A robust programme of self-evaluation and development planning ensures that the direction of the school remains true to its vision. Productive partnerships have been fostered within the Diocese of Coventry, community groups, universities and the local authority. Amongst many examples is the school's strong, active support of the cathedral's worshipping life and mission, and its innovative research work with Warwick University. In addition, every opportunity is taken to work with ethnic, religious and minority groups throughout the city. Numerous accolades, including The Lord Mayor's Peace and Reconciliation Award and multiple quality marks, confirm the school's many outstanding achievements.

The vision has inspired bold, ambitious, ethical decisions which shape the school's curriculum. This ensures that it meets the needs of each individual. Because of this, pupils are highly motivated in, and enjoy their studies. They are able to make very strong progress and flourish in their learning. Opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum and through relationships are in place. Examples of this include experiences in art, RE and the gospel choir. A shared language to fully express and explore spirituality in depth is not fully developed.

The vision creates an exceptional culture throughout the school in which the Christian values are radiated. This is characterized through positive choices, behaviour and relationships as well as service to one another and the community. In recognising and cherishing everyone, it provides foundations which transform people's lives enabling them to reach for and achieve their God given potential. In looking beyond itself, the school constantly finds and builds imaginative and innovative links. This has been especially evident through interfaith projects. One example involved pupils' collaboration with a Muslim school and a Sikh school in a social action project serving the street community. Because of numerous, varied opportunities in the curriculum to challenge injustice and inequality, pupils have become

courageous advocates for social change and for the climate crisis. This has also given rise to the school's charitable work and fundraising which includes building a school in Kenya and major donations to the children's hospice.

As an outworking of the vision, good mental health and wellbeing for each member of the school community is a high priority. The impact is seen through the outstanding work of the pastoral and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) team, wellbeing ambassadors and chaplain. This work is effective in ensuring that no-one who may be experiencing difficulty goes unnoticed or unsupported.

The school, with its richly diverse community, lives and flourishes together harmoniously. Difference is celebrated and pupils and adults are embraced, whatever their background, way of living, ability or disability. Strong, well-trained diversity teams, representing such groups as LGBTQ+, contribute to the welcoming, supportive culture. The school culture and curriculum provides rich and meaningful opportunities to develop an extraordinary understanding and respect for difference. Thus, prejudice-related incidents of bullying or intolerance are rare. When they do occur, they are dealt with robustly and conclude with forgiveness and a restoration of relationships.

Excellent collective worship, which is highly inclusive and invitational, enriches the life of the school. Underpinning it in all areas is a shared understanding that everyone can 'Live life in all its fulness'. Times of silence, stillness, music and reflection in tutor groups and larger gatherings create opportunities to experience and encounter God. Many of Coventry's large and active churches have strong links to the worshipping life of the school bringing diversity and a vibrant range of practice. Pupils contribute to the leadership and evaluation of worship. The chaplain's work is highly effective and includes well established counselling and local and national publication of collective worship materials. In response to COVID, the chaplain has been a significant driver in staff training and extending provision to support and promote wellbeing and mental health. This has significant impact on the spiritual and pastoral support of adults and pupils in the school, the trust and wider community. Formal and informal prayer is experienced in many ways and has a strong value and is emphasised across the school. Many speak of the powerful impact of this upon their spiritual journey and especially in times of difficulty. Coventry Cathedral is regularly used to celebrate festivals and for some of the school's key events.

RE is led by highly motivated and well-qualified specialist teachers who are enthusiastic about their subject. This results in excellent, engaging and well-balanced lessons which are enjoyed by pupils. Religious literacy is keenly emphasised and highly effective in equipping pupils for strong academic achievement. Staff are proficient in including imaginative ways to merge current world events and issues into their planning. As a result, lessons are highly effective in strengthening pupils' understanding . This enables them to gain a deep knowledge about how people apply and practice their faith and beliefs in today's world. All pupils in key stage 4 take a GCSE in the subject and this provides a strong foundation for the A-level course. Whilst sixth formers engage in an annual RE conference, other provision for these students in the subject is less well developed. Pupils' study of Christianity and world faiths incorporates the use of big questions. This promotes safe and respectful debate and reflection enabling pupils to be highly proficient in articulating relevant views and perspectives. Locally and nationally, RE staff are at the leading edge of innovative thinking, research and developments to promote the subject. This contributes to the school being regarded as a beacon of excellence in the community and diocese .



**The effectiveness of RE is**

**Excellent**

Teaching and learning in RE is engaging and of a consistently high quality. As a result, pupils respond keenly and make excellent progress throughout the school. Teachers use current thinking, research and developments in RE to ensure that the curriculum is rich, vibrant and motivating. As a priority, the department works hard to ensure that all pupils, including those who are vulnerable or with SEND, flourish in the subject.

## Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	16-17 May 2022	URN	137272
Date of previous inspection	7 July 2015		
School status	Academy converter inspected as voluntary aided secondary school	NOR	1680
Name of MAT	Inspire Education Trust		
Diocese	Coventry		
Headteacher	Victoria Shelley		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	The proportion of pupils who have English as an additional language is above national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who are from ethnic minorities is above national averages.		
Inspector's name	Peter Coates	No.	937