



Our Christian Vision

Let your light



Matthew 5:16

Who Are We?

Southam St James Church of England Academy is single form entry with an unstable roll currently. We welcome local children from Southam, and some from neighbouring villages. The proportion of children from underserved backgrounds is slightly below the national average and the proportion with special educational needs or disabilities is in line with national average. Currently, most children are of White British heritage, therefore children's understanding of diversity and difference is limited on admission.

The school is led by a Headteacher, in post for 2 years. In October 2018, we joined the Coventry Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust in order to be well supported on our improvement journey, and to build upon our effectiveness as a church school. Our staff is stable, mostly long-serving, but we are delighted to be joined by 2 early career teachers. Many staff live in the local community. Being part of the MAT has enabled us to be part of a bigger family to support the school's development and to sustain leadership.

Our partnerships with local churches are very strong and mutually beneficial. We link with our patronal church, St. James, and also with All Saints, Ladbrook, and Southam Congregational Church. Clergy are active in supporting the worshipping life of the school and also provide regular pastoral support through 'More Tea Vicar'. The Open the Book team are valued visitors to our school and help to bring the bible to life for us all. These embedded partnerships support the school to strongly live up to its Christian vision.

We are striving for everyone to flourish, shining as lights in the world, following the example and teaching of Jesus (Matthew 5:16). We are nurturing the unique God-given light in everyone to light up our academy with friendship, hope and compassion. Our vision is inspired by and rooted in biblical and theological ideas from our Christian foundation. It aligns with the Church of England Vision for Education and the vision of the Coventry Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust.

What Are We Doing Here?

'Let your light shine'

We are striving for everyone to flourish, shining as lights in the world, following the example of Jesus. We are nurturing and treasuring the unique God-given light in everyone, children and adults, to light up our academy, homes and community with lived friendship, hope and compassion.

Our vision is rooted in the theological concepts of **creation and the incarnation**.

In the Old Testament, we see that God created all human beings in his image as unique, loved individuals. It was God's plan for all of creation, including human beings, to flourish. God's desire is for us all to be shining brightly, confident in our place in and contribution to our academy family and beyond.

Genesis 1:27: "So, God created human beings, making them to be like himself." **Psalm 139:13-14:** "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful."

In our community, we express this when we say: 'Let your light shine.' To us, this means being ambitious and determined to be the very best and fullest version of ourselves, as God intended us to be. We are proud of who we are and what we can achieve, and what we can be, pushing boundaries, trying new things, making a difference, being brave, and continuing to learn. We celebrate the lights that make each of us who we are and treasure the uniqueness and diversity of everyone. We are committed to the full flourishing of everyone – body, mind, and spirit. The work of our school is to equip everyone to discover and love their unique light, to express it boldly and confidently through their treasured gifts, and to find their role in bringing light into the dark places of God's world.

The Gospel's full accounts of the life, work and ministry of Jesus on earth, fully God, fully man, underpin our vision. John 10:30 Jesus said, 'I and Father are one'. Jesus, God made man, walked among those who were celebrating, those who were struggling – in the hard stuff and the good. In our ambition for everyone to flourish, to shine, we walk alongside each other in the joys and challenges of life – we call these wows and ows. We work for everyone to encounter God through actions and support that bring healing in the ow times, re-kindling lights that might be faltering. We work for everyone to encounter God in the now times, offering light enhancing experiences that open up opportunities and turn our eyes to the created and wider world.

John 10:10 I have come that you might have life, life in all its fullness.

How Then Shall We Live and Learn?

The culture and consciousness of our school are expressed through the following biblically-based Christian values.

- Service
- Thankfulness
- Compassion
- Perseverance

- Creativity
- Justice
- Peace
- Wisdom
- Hope
- Humility
- Friendship
- Trust

Curriculum Intent

At Southam St James, we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which enables all children to be confident, independent and inquisitive learners who develop a lifelong love of learning and an understanding of the world – past, present and future. We provide high-quality learning through skilled explanation and modelling by teachers who have excellent subject and curriculum knowledge. Pedagogical expertise underpins teachers' ability to build opportunities for children to deepen their understanding and the ability to recall what they have learnt in a sophisticated and meaningful way. Our curriculum is designed to inspire and engage. Our curriculum is based on the existing National Curriculum and reflects a wide and varied learning experience which is enriched through creative contexts and our values-based learning community. We are committed to developing the whole child. Our curriculum has been specifically designed to ensure that our children are given wider opportunities to explore diversity and differences within the world.

Our Aims:

Southam St James Church of England Academy Curriculum enables all children to:

- Become enthusiastic and successful learners who love the challenge of learning, make progress and achieve their full potential
- Grow into confident individuals who can live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Develop as responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society
- Understand the value of learning and who continue that process through their lives
- Apply knowledge in varying contexts
- Develop a broad, meaningful vocabulary with conceptual understanding
- Develop into enthusiastic and successful learners who love the challenge of learning and are resilient to failure.
- Develop into curious, interested learners who seek out and use new information to develop, consolidate and deepen their knowledge understanding and skills.

Language of spirituality

In our school we are committed to the flourishing of everyone as unique, complete individuals – body, mind and spirit. Although spirituality is something that is almost beyond words, we describe it as being and becoming our unique selves. We use words such as wondering, searching, belonging and connecting to describe the journey of self-discovery in relation to ourselves, others and God (or something/someone beyond). Spirituality is about an inner spark or desire that is nurtured by our relationships, experiences, (wows, ows ,and nows) and curiosity, and inspires our choices, attitudes, values and beliefs.

Encouraging spiritual growth in our children through:

- being guided by their beliefs and values and be willing to take a stand to defend them, be self-aware and empathise with the experience of others in the school and wider community.
- love themselves, care for themselves, believe in their potential to achieve, and find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges.
- exercise imagination and creativity, appreciate beauty in the world and be alive to experiences of awe and wonder.
- be intrigued by mystery and be open to an awareness of the transcendent in the whole of life
- be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engage in reflection/meditation/prayer.
- be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made, to forgive themselves and to forgive others
- be willing to take risks and to reflect, learn and grow following experiences of failure as well as success
- demonstrate curiosity and open mindedness when exploring life's big questions
- appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life like friends and family and show generosity towards others.

WOWs, OWS and NOWS

We help each other to recognise these moments in life and to reflect on events

WOW moments

These are the awe and wonder moments. The times when you want to breathe in and capture the feeling, holding onto it as long as you can.

OW moments

These are the blows life can bring. They can knock the breath out of you.

NOW moments

These are the everyday ordinary times: being able to be present in the moment, being open and receptive to life, because God is not just for emergencies!

Summary of the Church of England's Vision for Education

In line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, our vision is for the common good of the whole community.

Educating for wisdom, knowledge, and skills: enabling discipline, confidence, and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.

Educating for hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair, and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.

Educating for community and living well together: a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.

Educating for dignity and respect: the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

Summary of the DCMAT Vision & Ethos

Our Commitment

All Academies in the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust will be recognised for their distinctive and inclusive Christian ethos and for the impact that this has on raising educational standards. Each Academy will demonstrate its Christian distinctiveness by providing an inspirational and

holistic education which enables all children and staff to develop and achieve to their full potential.

We will achieve our aims by ensuring that Academies within the Trust are:

- Transformational
- Aspirational
- Sustainable
- Motivational
- Purposeful

Our Aspirational and Measurable Outcomes are:

- Every school to be judged good or outstanding by Ofsted
- All Academies are to be judged to be 'living up to their Christian Foundation' by SIAMS (Section 48 Inspections)
- Every child is expected to make progress at least in line with, and for many, above national expectations.
- Every Academy is to be well led and governed
- All teachers are motivated to self-improve and aspire to excellence

To be achieved by collaborative working between our schools, focussing upon:-

- Excellence in teaching and learning through consistently strong, skilled, and sustainable leadership
- Every child and adult to know they are unique and special - loved and cherished by God; valued and accepted in the Trust family; important and strategic in God's plan
- Children, families, and staff developing and thriving through their knowledge and understanding of Christian values
- Children and young people being taught to become resilient, reflective, and articulate thinkers able to be creative, to reason and to become positive members of their community
- Creating cultures that support children and adults to achieve and succeed