



Lower Heath
CE Primary School

Part of the **Marches** Academy Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

Our Vision & Values

Our vision:
Achievement
through caring



Excellence: striving always for mastery and personal success



Integrity: consistently acting with honesty, compassion and respect



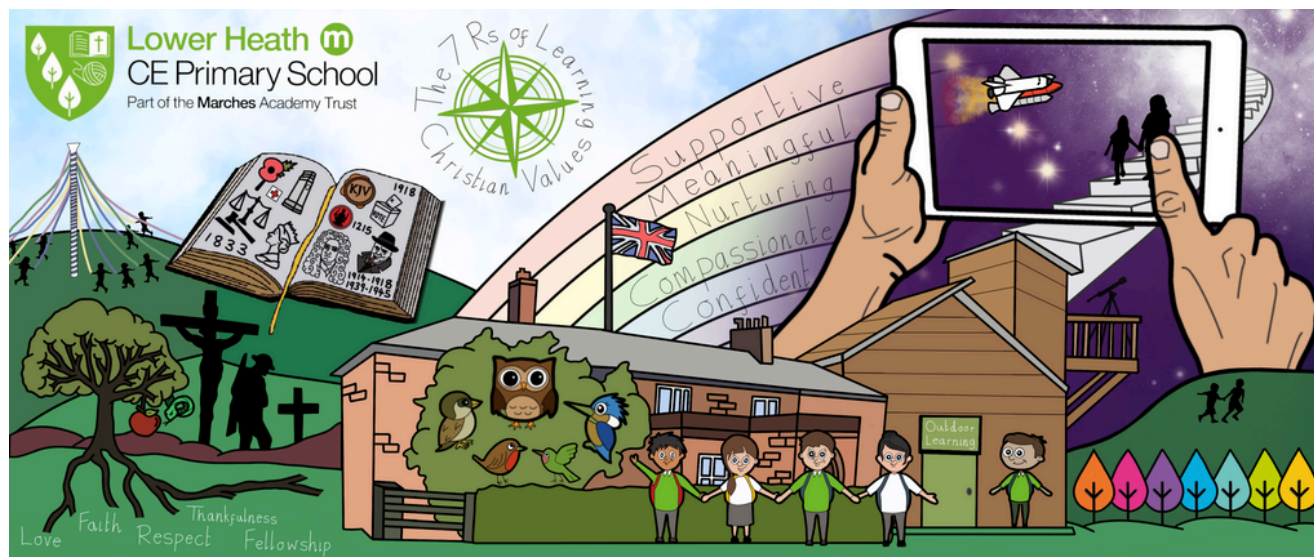
Empathy: embracing and supporting the uniqueness of every individual



Creativity: inspiring and challenging through invention, experimentation and exploration



Equality: ensuring fair opportunity for all



Let Your Light Shine

Reflections – A Summary of the Year



It has been a truly vibrant and rewarding year at Lower Heath, filled with moments that have brought joy, pride and a deep sense of community. Our school continues to be a place where children flourish, staff thrive and our community comes together in meaningful ways.

One of the most affirming moments this year was our wonderful SIAMS inspection, which recognised the strength of our Christian vision and the way it is lived out in our school. The report highlighted the warmth, inclusivity and sense of purpose that underpin everything we do - it was a true celebration of our shared values.

Our cultural link with Nishkam Primary School in Wolverhampton and our work on courageous advocacy have helped our pupils understand their place in a wider world and the power they have to make a difference.

We've also seen our children shine in leadership and performance - whether through "Children in Charge" day, the school council, or their confident voices in "Speak and Shine." These moments reflect the confidence and character we nurture every day.

Our nursery provision has expanded to welcome 2-year-olds, and our community events - from the Colour Run to the Christmas Fair - have brought us closer together.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for all we've achieved and excitement for what's to come. Lower Heath remains a place where every child is known, valued and encouraged to let their light shine.

School Priorities (SDP) 2024 – 2025

People First

- Develop staff through instructional coaching and networking
- Promote staff well-being

Impact

- Lesson observations show consistency in the use of agreed teaching strategies
- Professional development is more targeted and responsive to individual needs
- Staff feel supported in their professional growth and valued, as evidenced in staff voice surveys



Anytime, anywhere learning

- Develop oracy and vocabulary across the curriculum
- Instill maths fluency with secure knowledge of number fact

Impact

- Pupils use subject-specific vocabulary more confidently in speech and writing
- Teachers apply consistent oracy strategies across the curriculum
- Pupils show improved fluency in number facts, supporting reasoning and problem-solving.

Working today to protect tomorrow

- Increase pupil numbers on roll
- Build children's understanding of social responsibility

Impact

- Increased pupil numbers due to a positive reputation and improved visibility of school achievements within the local community
- Pupils are better able to articulate their learning journey
- Children actively contribute to school life and its successes, showing pride in making a difference



Belonging

- Engage parents in their children's home learning
- Embed the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB) agenda

Impact

- Parents feel more confident supporting learning at home due to accessible resources and workshops
- Pupils demonstrate greater awareness and respect for diversity in discussions and behaviour





1) Community and Connection

Faith and Fellowship

Our strong relationship with Fauls Church continues to be a cornerstone of our school's spiritual life. This year, we celebrated key Christian festivals - Harvest, Easter, and Christmas - through services and events that brought our community together. The Harvest Tea was a particular highlight, offering children the opportunity to share their gratitude with local residents.

We were also delighted to welcome the Saltmine Theatre Company, whose engaging performance helped bring Bible stories to life for our pupils. In addition, our children took part in the Open Doors, Open Hearts event at St Alkmund's Church, joining with other schools from across Shropshire to explore faith and spirituality. These moments of reflection and celebration have deepened our children's understanding of faith and community.



Cultural Connections

Our partnership with Nishkam Primary School has continued to flourish. Through video calls, a reciprocal visit and the exchange of Christmas cards, our pupils have developed a greater appreciation for cultural diversity and shared values. These interactions have helped foster mutual respect and curiosity, broadening our children's understanding of the wider world.

We also took part in the Fauls Fete, where our pupils proudly performed traditional maypole dancing, celebrating local heritage and strengthening ties with the village community. Visits to Elmhurst Care Home to sing carols brought joy to residents and gave our children a meaningful opportunity to connect across generations.



1) Community and Connection

Celebrating Together

Our Summer and Christmas Fairs were once again a resounding success, thanks to the incredible support of our staff, families and local community. These events not only raised valuable funds for the school but also created a warm and festive atmosphere where everyone felt welcome. The community picnic following the Year 6 SATs was a joyful celebration of our pupils' hard work and resilience, offering a relaxed space for families to come together. Parent workshops throughout the year have also strengthened our home-school partnership, equipping families with tools to support learning and well-being at home.

'One Voice' Success

Our pupils have shown remarkable initiative and compassion through their involvement in 'One Voice'. Our One Voice representatives organised a Colour Run for the Community, a clothing sale and a Bingo event at Prees, raising over £1,500 for Lower Heath and local charities. These events not only demonstrated their leadership and organisational skills but also their commitment to making a positive impact. Together, these experiences have helped our children understand the value of service, collaboration and community spirit.



2) Belonging



Family Partnership

Throughout the year, we have created many opportunities for children and families to come together in celebration. Our class assemblies have been joyful showcases of learning, confidence and creativity, with each class sharing their knowledge and talents with their families. Speak and Shine assemblies, including participation in the English Speaking Board (ESB) exams, have helped children develop their oracy skills and self-assurance. Crafternoons have brought families into school to collaborate on creative projects, strengthening the bond between home and school. Our school choir also took part in Shropshire Sings, joining voices with other schools in a powerful celebration of music and unity.



This year, we were delighted to receive a highly positive SIAMS inspection report, which affirmed the strength of our Christian vision and the way it is lived out across our school community. The report highlighted the inclusive and nurturing ethos at Lower Heath, stating:

"Lower Heath is a haven of care, compassion, and peace. A place where people shine."

Inspectors praised our commitment to enabling all pupils to flourish through strong relationships, purposeful leadership and by ensuring that our vision is woven through the curriculum and all areas of school life. The report celebrated the way pupils are encouraged to develop as individuals and use their gifts and talents for the benefit of others through Collective Worship and service activities. We were commended as being "thought-provoking," while our curriculum was described as "inspirational and aspirational." We are incredibly proud of this recognition, which reflects the heart of who we are as a school community.



2) Belonging



Shared Experiences and Lasting Memories

We believe that shared experiences help build a strong sense of belonging. Our residential, including the much-loved whole-school sleepover, have given children the chance to grow in independence and create lasting memories.

The **Friday Night Dinner** for Year 6 parents was a special moment of celebration and reflection, marking the end of a significant chapter in our pupils' journey. Children took great pride in preparing and serving a three-course Mexican feast for their families, showcasing not only their culinary skills but also their confidence and teamwork.

These events, alongside our commitment to Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB), ensure that every child feels seen, valued and part of the Lower Heath family. Our EDIB work continues to shape our curriculum, assemblies and school culture, helping children understand and appreciate the richness of the world around them.



3) Learning and Enrichment

Enterprise and Expression

Enterprise Week was a highlight of the year, giving children the opportunity to explore creativity, teamwork and financial literacy. Pupils designed, marketed, and sold their own products at the Enterprise Fair, developing a strong sense of ownership and pride in their achievements. This hands-on experience helped children understand the value of planning, budgeting and collaboration, while also raising funds to spend on items of their choosing.

In addition to enterprise, our music curriculum has continued to flourish. Weekly drumming, keyboard, guitar and ukulele lessons have been a highlight for many children, offering a dynamic and engaging way to develop their musicality.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

We continue to place a high value on enrichment across the curriculum. Every class has enjoyed either a workshop visit into school or a trip outside of school every term. Highlights have included visits to Rhyl SeaQuarium, Blists Hill Victorian Town and Bickley Farm, all of which have provided memorable, hands-on learning experiences that support and extend classroom learning. We were also fortunate to host workshops from Shropshire Museums and Xplore Science, which brought history and science to life.

Our wide range of afterschool and lunchtime clubs has provided children with opportunities to explore new interests and deepen existing ones. This year, we were excited to link up with the 4 All Foundation, who offer a fantastic variety of clubs; Archery, Quidditch and Nerf Wars have been particular favourites!

We've also seen a wonderful development in pupil leadership, with children taking the initiative to run their own lunchtime clubs. So far, we've had student-led Makaton and maths clubs, showcasing their confidence, creativity and commitment to sharing their passions with others.



Outdoor Adventures

Allwood World has remained a treasured part of our outdoor learning offer. This natural space provides children with the freedom to explore, build and reflect in a woodland setting. Whether constructing dens, observing wildlife, or engaging in team challenges, pupils have developed resilience, creativity and a deep appreciation for the natural world. Outdoor learning continues to be a vital part of our curriculum, supporting wellbeing and offering a different lens through which to view and understand the world around us.



4) Pupil Voice and Leadership

Empowering Young Voices

At the heart of our school community is a strong belief in the power of pupil voice. Throughout the year, we have provided a wide range of opportunities for children to express their ideas, take on responsibilities and influence positive change. Our School Council has played a vital role in representing the views of their peers, helping to shape decisions that affect daily school life. In addition, our Movement Mentors have been instrumental in keeping children active during playtimes, promoting fun, fitness and friendship. Alongside them, our Healthy Habits Monitors have encouraged positive lifestyle choices, supporting their peers in making informed decisions about wellbeing. Their thoughtful leadership has helped foster a calm, inclusive, and reflective atmosphere across the school.

Courageous Advocacy in Action

This year, our pupils have shown incredible compassion and commitment through their involvement in termly Courageous Advocacy projects. We participated in the Shoebox Appeal, where pupils collected and packed gifts for children in need around the world. Another powerful initiative has been our Zero Food Waste campaign. Children have started creating our own compost and are now learning how food waste can be transformed into something valuable for the environment. Pupils will begin to grow their own produce and learn basic cooking skills, helping them understand the full cycle of food from soil to plate.

These projects have helped pupils understand the importance of advocacy, teamwork, and standing up for what they believe in.



4) Pupil Voice and Leadership

Children in Charge

One of the most exciting and empowering experiences this year were our Children in Charge days. For one day each term, pupils stepped into the shoes of teachers, office staff and support roles across the school. They planned lessons, led activities and experienced the responsibilities of running a school.

This initiative was not only fun but also deeply educational. Pupils gained a new appreciation for the work of adults in school and developed skills in planning, organisation and leadership.

Feedback from both pupils and staff was overwhelmingly positive, with many children expressing pride in their roles and a desire to take on more responsibility in the future.

Children in Charge day perfectly encapsulated our belief that every child has the potential to lead, inspire and make a meaningful contribution to school life.



5) Staff and School Development



Supporting Staff Wellbeing

This year, we have placed a strong emphasis on staff wellbeing, recognising that a happy, supported team is essential for a thriving school. We've taken meaningful steps to reduce workload and create a more balanced working environment.

Key changes included streamlining planning expectations, reducing unnecessary paperwork and making better use of shared resources. Staff meetings were restructured to be more purposeful and time-efficient, with a clear focus on collaboration and professional growth.

These changes have been well received, with staff reporting improved morale, better work-life balance and a stronger sense of team cohesion. We remain committed to listening to staff feedback and continuing to refine our approach to wellbeing.



Rising to Challenges

This year also brought unexpected challenges, most notably a cyber attack that temporarily disrupted our systems. Thanks to the swift and coordinated response of our Marches IT support team, we were able to minimise the impact to our children's education.

We used this experience as an opportunity to strengthen our digital resilience and introduce new security protocols to ensure we are better prepared for the future. The professionalism and adaptability shown by staff during this time were exceptional. Their calm, solution-focused approach ensured that learning continued with minimal disruption and that pupil safety remained a top priority.

5) Staff and School Development



Professional Development and Growth

Professional development has remained a cornerstone of our school improvement. This year, we embedded Teach Like a Champion (TLAC) techniques and used StepLab to support consistent, high-quality teaching across the school. TLAC techniques have helped to sharpen classroom routines, improve questioning and boost pupil engagement. StepLab has provided a structured platform for staff to reflect on their practice, set goals and receive targeted feedback for improvement.

The impact has been clear: lessons are more purposeful and behaviour for learning is exemplary. We are proud of the culture of continuous improvement that has developed and look forward to building on this momentum next year.

We also welcomed new and talented teaching assistants to our Lower Heath family. They have brought fresh energy and expertise to classrooms, supporting both academic progress and pupil wellbeing.



Investing in Our School Environment

This year, with the valued support of the Marches Academy Trust, we will be creating an extended car queuing area to ease congestion, reduce roadside traffic and most importantly, make the area safer for our pupils, families and the wider community. We are proud to have taken proactive steps to protect our pupils and promote safe, active travel.

Another major development has been the launch of our Nursery 2 year old Provision. This new setting has enabled us to welcome even younger children into our school community, providing high-quality early education in a nurturing environment. The provision has been thoughtfully designed to support early language, social development and school readiness. Feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive and we are excited to see this provision grow in the coming years.



6) LGB and Governance

At Lower Heath, our vision—"Let Your Light Shine"—continues to guide our commitment to a school where every child thrives academically, socially and spiritually. This year, the Local Governing Body (LGB) has maintained a strong partnership with school leadership, supporting high-quality education in a nurturing, inclusive environment, with a continued focus on staff well-being.

The appointment of a new Chair of Governors has brought fresh leadership while building on the strengths of our existing governance. Our governors bring a wide range of skills and work closely with the headteacher to provide strategic direction and ensure the best outcomes for our school community.

Governors have helped review and improve communication strategies, promoting clarity, inclusivity, and engagement with parents, staff, and the wider community. They have also championed staff well-being, ensuring all team members feel valued and supported. Subject link visits have deepened governors' understanding of teaching and learning, celebrating strengths and supporting ongoing improvement. Their involvement was also key to our successful SIAMS inspection, which reaffirmed our strong Christian ethos and commitment to pupils' personal development.

Governors remain actively involved in school life—supporting events, joining trips and residential, and strengthening ties with the wider community.

Looking ahead, the LGB remains committed to fostering a school where all pupils and staff can flourish, supported by strong leadership, effective communication and a shared dedication to our vision.



School Priorities (SDP) 2025 – 2026



People First

We are committed to developing a culture of continuous professional growth. All staff will engage in regular instructional coaching and contribute to school improvement through the SDP. A focus on well-being, talent development and staff voice will ensure a supportive and thriving environment.

Anytime, Anywhere Learning

We aim to raise attainment in writing and strengthen oracy across the curriculum. TLAC strategies will be embedded to ensure consistency and inclusion. A new curriculum framework for 2–3-year-olds will support early learning, and pupils will be empowered to take ownership of their learning through goal setting and reflection.

Belonging

Every child will feel seen, heard and valued. We will build a culture of celebration, inclusion, and pupil voice. Initiatives like “Three Before Me” and growth mindset strategies will promote independence and engagement. Our curriculum and environment will reflect our commitment to equity and community.

Working Today to Protect Tomorrow

We will implement a 3-year site development plan and increase self-generated income to enhance our learning environment. Sustainability and community engagement will be key drivers, ensuring our school continues to thrive for future generations.





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