

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

The Parish of St Laurence Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Address Highfield Road South, Chorley, PR7 1RB

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

Through our Christian values, we strive to enrich the lives of our worshipping community. We will live, love and learn through faith in Jesus 'who strengthens us'. We will celebrate diversity and believe that we can reach our full potential academically, socially, globally and spirituality.

Key findings

- The school's vision to live, love and learn through faith in Jesus 'who strengthens us', has a transformational impact upon pupils and adults. It invigorates the whole community and sustains leaders and governors to make courageous decisions that ensure all are encouraged to fulfil their potential.
- Relationships at all levels are a testament to the impact of the school's carefully chosen and theologically understood Christian values of love, justice, respect, forgiveness, hope and excellence. The result is a harmonious, forward looking, inclusive Christian family that is a beacon of excellence.
- The imaginative, innovative curriculum enriches pupils' academic outcomes. It facilitates even the most vulnerable in becoming independent, curious, resilient and aspirational learners. As a result, despite the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, pupils retain their positive growth mindsets.
- Learning in religious education (RE) is exceptional. The leader for RE is committed to the pursuit of excellence. Pupils succeed in knowing and understanding Christianity, other religions and world views because the curriculum is appropriate, engaging and challenging. Pupils are excited by, and retain, their learning in RE and therefore make excellent progress.
- Collective worship is invitational, inclusive and inspiring. Carefully planned and enriching, it is at the heart of the school community. During periods of lockdown, it bound and nurtured the wider school family ensuring that a sense of hope and community prevailed.

Areas for development

- Seek additional opportunities to share expertise in areas of excellence so that the impact of the school's empowering and deeply embedded Christian vision goes beyond its close community.

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

St Laurence's is an excellent church school. At the heart of the community is its energising Christian vision, rooted in the biblical verse 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (Philippians 4:13). It sustains and encourages all to be the best that they can be. Consequently, the community flourishes. Opportunities and challenges are approached confidently and enthusiastically because there is a deep-seated trust in God's compassion, guidance and care. This is derived from, and enhanced by, the rich, nourishing and intertwined worship life of the school and parish. Dedicated governors and the inspiring headteacher ensure that the vision, with its focus on reaching potential through Jesus, drives school improvement. Alongside the school's Christian values, it is deeply embedded and positively influences all policy and practice. Self-evaluation, including as a distinctive church school, is rigorous. Undertaken in a spirit of humility, it encompasses the environment, people and learning. Pupils, staff and parents appreciate that their opinions are sought, respected and contribute to the progress of the whole school family. This leads to exceptionally harmonious relationships and a continual focus on being guided by, and learning from, Jesus' example.

Shaped by the vision, the curriculum and wider provision at St Laurence's is rich and ambitious. It closely matches individual needs and opens minds to exciting new experiences. It provides something for everyone. Aspirations are high and all, including the most able, are challenged to excel in all things. As a result, pupils show a thirst for learning, are excited by their school day and make progress socially, emotionally, spiritually and academically. Pupils are reflective, resilient and independent learners. They respond enthusiastically to the hopes that adults hold for them and are motivated to succeed. Families appreciate the school's highly sensitive and proactive approach to facilitating lockdown learning. Including discreet assistance with food parcels and technology, adults were tireless in their support for pupils. The creative curriculum of 'Care Fridays' proved essential to family wellbeing, nourishing spiritual development, minimising isolation and protecting mental health.

Character and moral development are excellent. They make everyone hopeful for the future and able to make moral decisions with certainty. St Laurence's champions the wellbeing of others and is courageous in its care of God's creation. Pupils are motivated to do God's work because of the trust and insight that their worship and learning provide. They are keenly aware of need and injustice locally, nationally and internationally. They have the knowledge, desire and faith to act for social justice because they know and apply God's word with integrity. Impressively, the school continues to fundraise for a significant number of ethically chosen charities throughout the ongoing pandemic. Eco warriors champion the school's carbon neutral footprint. With an excellent appreciation of stewardship and the environment, pupils diligently care for God's world. Organising a Cop26 summit for local schools, and giving their message of hope to The Speaker of the House of Commons, demonstrates their advocacy. It is an indication of the wealth of enriching expertise that this school has the potential to share locally and beyond.

Relationships are the bedrock of this close-knit, welcoming community where the teaching and example of Jesus shine. Leaders know, understand and love this school. They recognise each person as a 'child of God'. They make wise decisions that empower individuals and ensure the development and wellbeing of all. Pastoral care is remarkable. Inspired by the vision, it extends to the care of adults. Strong systems and policies help identify individuals in need and robust responses, including external agencies, provide outstanding support. Adults and pupils acknowledge that they each have a voice. Opinions, even when differing, are sought and respected. School councillors, like other pupil leaders, relish their role and its influence. The 'gardeners and seeds' initiative enables Year 6 pupils to nurture the confidence of the youngest members of the school family. This demonstrates their exceptional understanding of the purpose and impact of the vision and values. Behaviour is excellent. When rare disagreements occur, justice and reconciliation, theologically understood and biblically referenced, underpin the response and provide lasting solutions. Consequently, attendance is high and exclusions rare. Pupils sparkle because they are happy, excited and fully engaged in reaching their God given potential.

Although not immediately apparent as a diverse community, St Laurence's celebrates the uniqueness of each person. Worship and the curriculum, successfully encourage a sense of pride in background, culture and ways of living. All recognise the school as place of safety and welcome. The undermining of others, by word or action, seldom occurs and is never tolerated. Pupils are naturally and exceptionally supportive of others. Driven by the school vision to explore, understand and celebrate diversity, the school has excellent partnerships with schools and communities, locally and internationally. The collaborative relationship with Pencott Valley Primary School, Uganda, is a source of joy. It is energising and empowers both communities.

Worship is the beating heart of this deeply prayerful and spiritual community. Carefully and imaginatively planned, led and evaluated by adults and pupil worship warriors, worship is rich, varied and inspiring. Successfully using art, drama and music to bring the Word of God alive, worship is meaningful and accessible to all. Powerful, memorable worship in school, church and at home, ensures all recognise and experience the breadth of the Anglican traditions. Adults, including parents, speak of school worship strengthening their personal faith. Key stage 2 pupils' extraordinary understanding of Eucharist and the belief in God as Father, Son and Spirit belies their age. Pupils who wish to, pray spontaneously because they are confident it will bring them God's strength. Stimulating class reflection areas, prayers spaces and outdoor worship areas are accessible 'places to leave your worries because God has the solution'. During lockdown, worship on the theme of hope and activities such as Advent bags comforted, excited and encouraged the school family.

RE is at the centre of the curriculum. Dynamic teaching and excellent subject knowledge results in enjoyment and learning that is exceptional. Using an enquiry approach and inspired by the vision and values of the school, RE is transformational. It opens pupils' minds and enables them to think deeply. A rich programme of visits and visitors, imaginatively sustained despite Covid restrictions, broadens experience and enhances learning by encouraging curiosity and analysis. Pupils appreciate Christianity as the living faith that they experience daily and to which they apply their understanding. They welcome learning about world religions so that they become more knowledgeable and respectful about others. Focused interfaith weeks and exciting awe and wonder spirituality days make a significant impact upon pupils' appreciation of diversity and difference.



The effectiveness of RE is **Excellent**

As a consequence of the carefully planned, balanced and sequential curriculum, teaching and learning in RE are excellent. Pupils throughout the school are captivated by consistently challenging and engaging lessons. They retain their learning and use religious terms accurately and with confidence. Assessment is rigorous, and meaningful. Consequently, pupils know what they need to do to improve and make excellent progress.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	4 March 2022	URN	119465
Date of previous inspection	11 November 2014		
School status	Voluntary aided primary school	NOR	208
Diocese / Methodist District	Blackburn		
Headteacher	Emma Marquis		
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.		
Inspector's name	Fiona Ashton	No.	0860