



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Address Church Lane, Mill End, Rickmansworth, United Kingdom, WD3 8HD

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)

Good

School's vision

At St Peter's, we have a rich curriculum, that is rooted in a wholesome Christian ethos, that inspires and motivates children to achieve their individual successes that will prepare them for a love of life-long learning. This is distilled in into the motto, 'One Family, Aiming High, Learning Together with God'.

Key findings

- A deeply embedded Christian vision permeates St Peter's like a golden thread. The biblical roots bind the school community, driving ambitious leaders at every level to enable transformational outcomes for every pupil to flourish. Governors are passionate about ensuring everyone aims high and as a result, re highly effective.
- The inspirational headteacher skillfully shepherds a community-centred approach that ensures no one is left behind. Pupils and adults watch over each other in love, which is unprompted and strikingly normal at St Peter's. Pupils achieve highly as everyone is resolute to aim high. A secure understanding of spirituality is developing within the curriculum.
- St Peter's exceptional provision for every pupil, particularly the most vulnerable, transforms lives for the better. Pupil behaviour is exemplary.
- Sustained support for the mental health and wellbeing of pupils and adults ensures that all are enabled to aim high and flourish. The vision unites the community within the context of the decidedly inclusive, welcoming, and loving school.
- Excellent collective worship is the heartbeat of St Peter's. Innovative and inspirational worship enables everyone to have a deep and lasting understanding of the vision. Prayer and reflection are integral to the rich worship life. A strong and mutually beneficial relationship has been reignited between the school and church communities.
- Effective religious education (RE) leadership and good teaching ensure that pupils flourish in RE. Whilst good, the RE curriculum does not fully reflect the school's vision and is not sufficiently ambitious or dynamic enough to be judged Excellent.

Areas for development

- Further develop an ambitious, creative and dynamic RE curriculum, so that it fully expresses the school's Christian vision.

- Embed a secure and consistent understanding of and approach to spirituality, so that the spiritual growth of all pupils and adults is enhanced.

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 Parable of the Lost Sheep is the driving force behind the Christian vision. Everyone at St Peter's talks passionately about the family at the school. No one is left behind. Barriers to learning and interaction with the school are overcome by instilling policies and procedures that are rooted in the vision. New leaders have worked tirelessly in a short space of time to ignite and inspire the school community to enable the flourishing of all. St Peter's is at the centre of the community. No stone has been left unturned by leaders in enabling everyone to flourish. The Christian value of love is the hallmark of the school. Values are coupled with the Parable of the Lost Sheep which reinforces the vision at every turn. Pupils love coming to school. Pupils speak with passion about the love they have for each other and the love they receive from the staff and Church. The development and subsequent monitoring of the school's vision embrace as many people as possible to obtain the broadest sense of the impact. Robust monitoring supports the effective nature of the school. Pupils achieve highly as a result. Whilst opportunities for spiritual development are rich, a shared definition of spirituality is not fully embedded.

Leaders share an extensive understanding of the vision. Staff delivers exceptional outcomes, a family community, and high-quality learning for all within the context of God's love. Induction for new staff and governors is highly effective. During recent building works, the school's resilience and sense of teamwork are demonstrated effectively by staff ensuring that every pupil's learning is not disadvantaged. Teachers utilise training to bring about rapid change. For example, during the COVID pandemic, leaders ensured that mental health and wellbeing training for all staff was prioritised. Leaders are proactive in matching training to enhancing pupil outcomes, whilst making the connection to the vision tangible. Rich opportunities for character development are utilised by every pupil. For example, the Wise Owls group support planning and leading of worship. One pupil said St Peter's is, 'an environment where everyone is listened to and feels valued'. Parents see the school as a beacon of hope for the community. Intergenerational work is highly valued and demonstrates the extended family that is lovingly nurtured. As one parent said, 'pupils are encouraged to be curious, and staff want every child to flourish'. Academic and spiritual flourishing are highly valued. The sense of family is seen in the open and trusting relationships that families and the school share. Staff ensure that strong partnerships support families exceptionally well.

Leaders are passionate about delivering the vision for everyone at St Peter's. Governors are relentless in holding the school to account for the impact of the vision. Committees monitor the three aspects of the school motto. Leader's passion is infectious. It ensures an insightful understanding of the school as a Church school through robust and accurate monitoring. In a short space of time, the headteacher has worked tirelessly with his team to bring the community through the pandemic, whilst ensuring that no one was left behind. During challenging times, staff ensure that pupils and families are well supported. The school helped with energy bills, food parcels, and counselling for pupils as required. In every relationship and partnership, the school lives out its vision in impressive and inspirational ways. These are worthy of sharing with other schools. Social action projects, charitable works, and a strong commitment to ecological campaigns are rooted within the context of the vision. As a result, pupils are advocates for change and ardent in supporting others locally and internationally, through meaningful projects. Strong links are fostered with a Ugandan community and links with schools in Sweden are growing.

Following robust monitoring, leaders develop opportunities to reflect more fully the diverse community within reading books, role play areas, and costumes. Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is fully inclusive and sensitively reflects the vision. As a result, all pupils and families feel valued by the whole school community. Difference is celebrated and

respected. Adults and pupils speak about the fully inclusive nature of the school. Subsequently, everyone flourishes because they are treated with great dignity and respect.

Behaviour is exceptional. Pupils who transfer from other schools and countries say how quickly they have made friends and feel part of the family. A pupil said, 'bullying doesn't happen because we all look after each other and teachers make sure we are safe and loved'. Forgiveness and reconciliation are the expression of this success. Pupils with additional needs are exceptionally well supported. This provision is transformational for pupils and their families.

Collective worship is exceptional. Worship ensures that pupils and adults have a deep understanding of the vision. The Lost Sheep is woven into the fabric of school life seamlessly, with inspirational worship central to the community within the love of God. Pupils and clergy are actively engaged in planning, leading, and evaluating worship in innovative and inspiring ways. Worship throughout the day is fully inclusive and invitational. Prayer is central to worship and pupils enjoy writing and reading a variety of prayers. Class worship ensures that Christian themes are unpicked in age-appropriate ways. As a result, pupils have an excellent understanding of the teachings of Jesus and the place of Christianity in the modern world. Reflection spaces are well used and valued. Stillness, song, and dance offer a wide range of Anglican worship. Clergy has embedded a contemplative approach to worship, which enables pupils to explore Bible stories in depth. Creative approaches to worship are well established, for example, sharing outcomes of thought-provoking class worship with the whole school. Pupils' artwork enhances spaces for worship. Clergy sees their role in the worship life of the school as a key part of their ministry. Pastoral support offered to families and staff alike, is highly valued and reflects the outreach of St Peter's vision to the community.

Pupils flourish in RE. They enjoy challenging lessons, learning about world religions and worldviews. Christianity is seen as a living world faith. This gives clarity of vision and supports pupils' exploration of theology, philosophy, and human science. As a result, pupils develop age-appropriate skills of inquiry, critical analysis, and interpretation. Pupils are immersed in religious and cultural experiences to strengthen their learning. Diocesan training supports staff in delivering good lessons. The 'Understanding Christianity' resource is effectively supporting staff subject knowledge and shapes pupils' understanding of the Bible. Work in pupils' books demonstrates the knowledge acquired. Whilst RE is good, the curriculum does not fully reflect the school's vision enough to be judged Excellent. RE provision meets the RE Statement for Entitlement.

There are no lost sheep at St Peter's. This is an inspirational school, rooted in Christian love. Pupils and adults are united and motivated by the inclusive vision. The entire school community is enabled to flourish because of the tireless striving to achieve the vision as one family, aiming high, learning together with God.



The effectiveness of RE is Good

Through regular monitoring, leaders' assessment of RE teaching and learning is accurate. In lessons, pupils make good progress and work is of a high standard. All groups flourish academically in RE, and the subject has a high priority across the school. Engaging and creative learning approaches ensure that the impact of learning is long-lasting. The RE curriculum does not reflect the school's vision fully and as a result, is not ambitious enough.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	4 May 2022	URN	117448
Date of previous inspection	28 April 2015		
School status	Voluntary aided primary school	NOR	232
Name of MAT/Federation	n/a		
Diocese	St Albans		

Headteacher	Michael Conley		
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 in line with national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	The headteacher was appointed in 2020 and all teaching staff and most governors are new to the school since the previous inspection. Currently, the school is undergoing significant building works resulting in several classes being taught in temporary locations in the school.		
Inspector's name	Toby Long	No.	896