

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Garston Church of England Primary School

Address Holman Road, Liverpool, United Kingdom, L19 5NS

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

Good

The impact of collective worship

Good

The effectiveness of religious education (RE)

Good

School's vision

To ensure that each and every child, no matter their background or circumstances, reaches their potential and leaves us ready for the next stage of life, doing this through living 'life in all its fullness' (John10:10).

Key findings

- The Christian vision and values drive every aspect of the school's daily life. They are understood and clearly articulated by the school community. As a result, everyone is given the opportunity to flourish in a welcoming, inclusive and loving Christian environment.
- Senior leaders demonstrate committed leadership and service. They are well supported by the staff team and academy councillors. Strategic development planning is effective in supporting the long-term direction of the school. However, this does not include specific objectives for Church school development.
- All members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. The school's nurturing ethos and provision for wellbeing and mental health ensure that everyone feels safe, valued and able to 'live life in all its fullness'.
- Collective worship lies at the heart of daily life. It is inclusive and inspirational and provides opportunities for pupils and adults to explore faith and spirituality.
- The religious education (RE) subject leader ensures that the subject is taught with commitment. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic learners. They feel secure when expressing their ideas and opinions. However, there are few opportunities to explore their spiritual responses in a creative way.

Areas for development

- Include action plans for Church school development in school improvement planning in order to support staff and councillors in their strategic monitoring.
- Explore ways of introducing more varied activities in RE so that pupils are able to deepen their spiritual response to the syllabus content.

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

Garston Church of England Primary School creates a warm and loving environment in which pupils and adults are able to grow. The school's Christian vision and values are deeply embedded in all aspects of its work. As a result, pupils and adults in the school community have opportunities to flourish. Pupils spontaneously refer to the vision and the core Christian values when they talk about their learning and school experiences. The school is committed to and is successful in meeting the diverse needs of individual pupils and their families. All members of staff take advantage of opportunities to develop their professional and leadership skills. As a result, the school constantly strives to provide a rich and engaging learning environment. The supportive local academy councillors bring a range of skills and experience to their role. Mutually beneficial links with the parish church play an important part in the development of the school within the wider Christian community. Clergy contribute to collective worship and pupils are regularly involved in Sunday worship. A service is held each week after school for parents and their children and this has led to a growth in Christian commitment. Effective links with the diocese and schools in the multi-academy trust support decisions regarding development and practice.

The school ensures that curriculum content is relevant and that it meets the needs of 'each and every child'. It is broad and balanced and includes a commitment to extending pupils' experience and fostering a deep spirituality rooted in reflection and exploration. Opportunities to visit museums, galleries, the Houses of Parliament and to experience new environments contribute to flourishing and aspiration. The wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and Forest School further enhance provision. As a result, pupils speak enthusiastically about their learning and the exciting things they do at school. A rigorous and unwavering approach to attendance encourages all pupils to value learning and the opportunities it brings.

The school's Christian vision and holistic approach to child development and learning ensure that pupils believe in themselves and strive to achieve. Many pupils show great resilience and determination. Inclusion is at the centre of the school's work and a wide range of intervention strategies and nurture provision have a positive influence on pupils' confidence and progress. Pupils also have many opportunities to develop their leadership skills through membership of the school council, worship and anti-bullying warriors and a range of special roles. Pupils' behaviour is extremely good, and they have a strong commitment to living out the school's Christian values in their relationships with one another. They demonstrate a clear belief that their school is a place where they feel safe and loved because all are welcome. Through the School of Sanctuary award, staff have developed a wide range of skills to enhance their approach to pupils' wellbeing and mental health.

Relationships throughout the school community are rooted in Christian love and service. All are treated with dignity, respect and trust. Staff have opportunities to thrive professionally because of high-quality training and development. An open-door policy contributes to a highly effective approach to mental health and wellbeing for all members of the school community. Parents value the many ways in which the Christian vision is lived out day by day through the school's care for families. As a result, parents feel valued and supported. They welcome the many workshops and activities which help them to encourage and support their children.

The school demonstrates a true sense of Christian service through courageous social action. Pupils are aware of how they too can engage in supporting a range of local, national and global charities. Each year group has a designated charity in addition to supporting regular charity events. As a result of the school's commitment to raising awareness of injustice and disadvantage, pupils respond with generosity and compassion. They can explain why this is important as part of leading a Christian life.

Collective worship is at the heart of the school's daily life. It is rooted in biblical teaching and reflects the Christian vision and core values. Planning incorporates the major seasons and festivals of the Church's year, giving pupils an understanding of the rhythm of Christian life. All members of the community welcome opportunities for prayer, silence and stillness. Classroom and outdoor reflection areas extend personal prayer and contribute to an understanding of the different ways prayer can be part of daily life. Pupils enjoy singing and understand that this can be an expression of praise and thanksgiving. All members of the school community contribute to evaluation and this supports growth and adaptation so that worship remains relevant for all. Pupils are increasingly involved in planning and leading worship and this contributes to their understanding and confidence.

RE has a high profile and is taught well and supports pupils in their exploration of core theological concepts. A focus on key vocabulary and concepts ensures that pupils develop their theological thinking and understanding. The diocesan syllabus and 'Understanding Christianity' resources ensure that pupils have broad learning experiences rooted in theology. Staff ensure that challenging questions and open discussion contribute to the development of mind and spirit. Pupils enjoy their work and can talk confidently about their learning. Effective monitoring by the subject leader and designated local academy councillor has a positive influence on the development of teaching and learning. There is a lack of opportunity for pupils to explore their spiritual response to RE through more creative activities.

Garston Church of England Primary School is a compassionate and inclusive school with Christ at the very centre of its work. Each and every child is encouraged and enabled to flourish.



The effectiveness of RE is

Good

Teaching and learning in RE are consistently good. Across the school pupils make good progress. They are enthusiastic and curious, making links with current and prior learning. Good use is made of on-going assessment to determine next steps for all pupils.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	07 October 2022	URN	104620
Date of previous inspection	09 October 2015		
School status	VA	NOR	236
Name of Multi Academy Trust or Federation	Rainbow Education MAT		
Diocese or Methodist Circuit	Liverpool		
Headteacher	Sarah Knipe		
Proportion of pupils deemed to be disadvantaged	Above National Average		
Proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	In Line with National Average		
Additional significant information (if needed)			
Inspector's name	Jean Forward	No.	0625