

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Primary School, Mosley Common

Address Commonside Road, Worsley, United Kingdom, M28 1AE

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

Aim High, Believe, Achieve. With God's love, we will inspire all of our children to believe in themselves and unlock the potential that lies within each and every one of them, preparing them to be happy, successful and responsible citizens in the future. This is based on Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Key findings

- Leaders have a clear Christian vision, which is underpinned by Jeremiah 29:11. The vision is driven and sustained by Christian values. These are articulated and lived out by the whole school community. There are processes in place for leaders to evaluate the effectiveness of the Christian vision. However, these do not always inform strategic planning.
- The Christian vision results in a strong culture of care and respect. All pupils are valued as unique. This is evidenced by positive relationships, pupils' behaviour, tolerance and respect.
- The Christian vision supports character development well. Pupils are not afraid to be courageous advocates and speak confidently about difference and diversity. Pupils identified with Special Educational Needs and/or a Disability (SEND) are well supported. This leads to a happy, safe community where all feel special, heard and are able to flourish.
- Collective worship is enjoyed as a time for everyone to come together. It provides opportunities to pray, reflect, praise God and discuss world issues. These are closely linked to the school's core Christian values. Pupils currently have few opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship in ways that improve practice.
- Effective leadership and management of religious education (RE) results in a rich, progressive curriculum. This gives pupils a good knowledge of the Bible and a sound understanding of Christianity and world faiths.

Areas for development

- Leaders to ensure that systems in place to evaluate the Christian vision provide an accurate understanding of the school as a church school, that informs strategic planning.
- Give more pupils opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship in ways that improve practice. This will deepen their spiritual development.

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 John's prides itself on its Christian welcome, driven by the vision. This is reflected in the school policies. These are understood and practised by everyone. Staff say this leads to a 'family team who work together.' An 'open door' policy exists and relationships are characterised by warmth, trust and honesty. Parents describe their children as happy and content in school. Leaders passionately promote the biblical roots of the vision. These link closely to their aspirations for learners, who leave the school well prepared for their future education because of the skills they acquire. Pupils say they are encouraged to be independent. Their behaviour around school is exemplary. They take care of younger children and those with additional needs at break times. Leaders monitor the effectiveness of the Christian vision by observing collective worship, talking to staff and pupils and receiving school review documents. This monitoring does not always inform strategic planning.

Links with the Diocese of Manchester develop Christian leadership and the RE curriculum. The wider community also benefit from diocesan events. A recent heritage weekend, attended by the Bishop, embraced many visitors into the school family. The local church community offer 'Messy Church' in school, which excites and engages pupils. The formal partnerships with the local schools' consortium and RE hub provide development opportunities for the RE lead. This sharing of good practice resulted in the introduction of new biblical resources, for example 'Love letters from God.' This improves pupils' knowledge of the Bible.

The curriculum is crafted around the needs of the pupils and the context of the school. This results in a creative approach to learning and a developing knowledge of global issues and world religions. The Christian vision leads to an inclusive environment where all are valued as unique. This gives pupils an understanding of difference and diversity. Staff know their pupils and families well and all are encouraged to thrive and succeed. Parents give examples of how targeted support and interventions for pupils with SEND enable them to progress and flourish. Educational visits, for example, a residential trip to the Lake District, contribute to spiritual development. They enable pupils to experience the awe and wonder of the natural world. Pupils use stilling and meditation to focus and relax. The development of critical thinking skills support pupils' understanding of ways of relating to themselves, others, the wider world and God. Although spiritual development takes place across the curriculum, it is not specifically planned for. The shared understanding of spiritual development between staff is unclear. Worship allows pupils a safe space to reflect on their own beliefs and personal response to 'big questions.'

The school's approach to personal, social and health education (PHSE) fosters dignity and respect for all. Pupils discuss different kinds of families with maturity. They say, 'Treat everyone the same with a kind heart.' The Christian vision has a positive impact on character development. Pupils take on a variety of leadership roles and are not afraid to be courageous advocates. The eco council speak enthusiastically about challenging pollution, deforestation and promoting recycling. They say, 'God made the world and he wants us to take care of it.' As a result, the local community benefit from initiatives such as litter picks and well-being walks. Pupils link their Christian vision to charity work. This is inspired by exploration of current world issues in worship. Pupils link these to the life of Jesus and Christian values. They raise money on a 'Blue and Yellow Day' after hearing about the Ukraine war. Harvest donations for a local foodbank allow the school to take social action in the community.

Leaders are committed to developing provision to support the well-being of all. The headteacher deploys skills gained from 'Trauma Informed' training and the school is working towards Emotionally Friendly School status. Governors allocate funding to employ pastoral support and counselling services. Pupils know who they can speak to if they need help. This has a tangible impact on improving attendance, good mental health and keeping children safe. Staff are signposted to appropriate support when needed. They feel respected and cared for.

Collective worship is a daily exploration of the Christian vision and values. There is an awareness of different forms of worship including through music, singing and reflection. Prayer is used at specific times. For example, before lunch and at home time. A pupil ethos group write prayers, which are shared with the church community. This helps pupils to grow spiritually. Parents describe how their children use prayer and link their behaviour at home to Christian values from school. They say this is in response to their experiences

in school. Reading children's 'Picture News' stories gives pupils opportunity to discuss world views, British values and 'big questions'. They confidently offer their views on how they can live out their Christian vision as a response to this learning. Pupils' engagement with planning, leading and evaluating collective worship is underdeveloped. Visits to the church enhance learning about Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Older pupils learn about the Eucharist and Holy Trinity. This builds up a progressive knowledge of Anglican worship, festivals and traditions.

RE is planned as a rich and creative expression of the Christian vision. Enquiry based learning helps develop religious literacy. RE is given high status in the curriculum and school improvement cycle. Pupils demonstrate a good knowledge of the Bible. They discuss miracles performed by Jesus, old testament characters and core Christian concepts, for example, Creation. Pupils talk knowledgeably about the life of Jesus saying 'He didn't commit sin, he was good.' They relate to the disciples as they speak about helping people and living out their Christian values. Older pupils refer to important historical figures, for example, William Tyndale. They recognise his strong faith, courageous advocacy and the impact of his Bible translation on Christianity. Pupils are determined to fulfil the school's Christian vision. They say the encouragement of adults in school and words in the vision inspire them to 'Aim at something and chase your dreams!'



The effectiveness of RE is

Good

Effective leadership of RE results in clear curriculum plans and assessment systems. From the early years, this develops understanding of Christianity and its core values. Staff who are new to the school are given guidance around the teaching of RE. This gives them confidence to develop religious literacy. There is evidence of progression of skills and an understanding of world religions.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	11 October 2022	URN	106484
Date of previous inspection	08 July 2015		
School status	VA	NOR	171
Name of Multi Academy Trust or Federation			
Diocese or Methodist Circuit	Manchester		
Headteacher	Andrea Heaton		
Proportion of pupils deemed to be disadvantaged	Below National Average		
Proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	Below National Average		
Additional significant information (if needed)			
Inspector's name	Anne Barker	No.	0959