

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>St Barnabas Church of England Primary Academy, Manchester</b>	
Address	Parkhouse Street, Openshaw, M11 2JX
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

School's vision
<p>Preparing our children to shine brightly.</p> <p>St Barnabas is a caring, family school with Christian values at our core. We want our staff, families and children to encourage, inspire, believe and achieve whilst living out our Christian values, inspired by St Barnabas – love, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, service and courage. 'Shine like stars in the universe.' Philippians 2: 14-15</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school's biblically rooted Christian vision and supporting values shape the day-to-day work of this inclusive and compassionate Church school. How the school's vision and values underpin school policies and curriculum development is not consistently reflected in school documentation.</li> <li>• The aspirational Christian vision drives a culture of increasingly high hopes and expectations in learning. Leaders are beginning to identify opportunities for spiritual development within the curriculum.</li> <li>• Character development is a strength of the school. Deeply cherished Christian values inspire pupils to find ways to be advocates for change. The school community is hopeful and resilient, living well together and passionately upholding each other's rights to flourish as individuals.</li> <li>• The school's Christian vision and values shine through collective worship, which is a cornerstone of school life. Reflecting the character of the local community, worship is inspiring, inclusive and invitational. There are some opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship.</li> <li>• The religious education (RE) curriculum is well sequenced and coherent. Pupils engage enthusiastically and record their learning in a range of creative and inclusive ways. As a result, pupils develop a comprehensive understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths and worldviews.</li> </ul>



### Areas for development

- Ensure the school's Christian vision is clearly reflected in written policies and curriculum development planning so that the whole school community understands how it underpins school priorities.
- Develop a shared school understanding of spirituality and use this to ensure the curriculum and other activities facilitate rich and relevant opportunities for spiritual development.
- Enable more pupils to take increasing responsibility for planning, leading and evaluating collective worship to deepen their engagement and spirituality.



## Inspection findings

St Barnabas is a good Church school, at the heart of its local community. Its deeply held Christian vision instils aspiration, compassion and courage. It sustains adults and pupils and enables them to 'shine like stars in the universe', including through times of challenge and change. Firmly rooted in the life of its patron saint, school values are deeply cherished. They underpin the day-to-day life of this diverse and inclusive school. As a result, school leaders and staff embrace major recent initiatives, particularly to improve the curriculum, with determination and hope. Multi-academy trust (MAT) leaders are highly effective in supporting the strategic direction of the school. The local advisory board regularly monitors the school's self-evaluation as a Church school and contributes effectively to ongoing improvement. Leaders confidently articulate how the school's vision drives major areas of school life, including its approach to behaviour and anti-bullying. However, the vision led practices evident in the daily life of the school are not fully reflected in written documentation.

The school's Christian vision of achievement and encouragement inspires high expectations in learning. The recently reviewed whole school curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of all pupils in this inclusive school. The school community has been disproportionately struck by the long-lasting effects of the COVID pandemic, leading to much lost learning. Working with school leaders, the MAT makes bold, ethical decisions, aimed at improving achievement. It has targeted additional resources to the school, particularly for the most vulnerable pupils. This has enabled school leaders to focus support effectively, reducing barriers to learning and increasing pupils' opportunities to flourish. Pupils value additional support and resources that help them learn. 'Adults really help me in lessons,' said one pupil, 'so I can shine like a star.' As a result of recent curriculum developments, pupils are purposeful and curious learners, engaging actively in lessons. However, pupils do not fully understand how the school's Christian values relate to personal learning goals within the curriculum. A range of first-hand experiences, aimed at widening pupils' understanding of the world, prompt them to explore and question. Planned opportunities for spiritual development within and beyond the curriculum, are at the early stages of development. The school's aspirational and inclusive vision spurs leaders to engage a range of community partners. They offer a variety of free musical and sporting experiences to all pupils, leading to wider pupil flourishing.

Firmly rooted in the school's vision and values, collective worship is the cornerstone of school life. Effectively managed by the school principal, themes have a strong biblical basis. Collective worship is invitational and inclusive, responding thoughtfully to a school community representing a range of world faiths and worldviews. Pupils routinely encounter a variety of Anglican traditions and respond enthusiastically to prayer, Bible stories, songs and stillness. Worship is led confidently by staff and local clergy, with pupil contributions. Creative and engaging, it has a significant impact on pupils' spiritual development. Pupils reflect thoughtfully on how Jesus' teachings inspire them to act. The pupil worship group enthusiastically helps lead weekly class worship and services in the local church. Their contribution nourishes the spiritual life of school. There are some opportunities for pupils to take more responsibility for collective worship, leading to greater spiritual enrichment. The active involvement of the local curate deeply nurtures the Church life of school. He performs baptisms in school for families and runs well attended communion classes, leading to several older pupils receiving first communion.

Empowered by the school's Christian vision of compassion and courage, character development is a strength of the school. Pupils enthusiastically learn about a range of famous courageous advocates for change. This prompts them to make a difference in the local



community and wider world. Pupils value the range of local and international charities they support. They talk movingly about the impact of their initiatives, such as installing low energy light bulbs in school. They thoughtfully link their actions to the school's Christian vision and values. 'God wants us to be earth keepers,' said one pupil. 'We need to look after our world.'

Adults and pupils passionately uphold and respect individuality and equality. Pupils are confident in their own identity and are strong advocates for diversity. They talk passionately about how the school helps them shine as individuals. 'God made us all unique,' said one pupil. 'We all have different minds and are good at different things.' As a result, all pupils feel valued and safe to express their views in this diverse and inclusive school. The school holds UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award in recognition of its work on children's rights.

The vision of love and generosity means that wellbeing is a priority. Sustained by an active school prayer life, staff value how leaders show compassion and support. They appreciate the contribution of the school's mental health first aiders and MAT wellbeing initiatives, particularly in times of difficulty. As a result, staff are resilient and mutually supportive. They confidently encourage each other, instilling a tangible culture of hope and compassion within school. Pupils care for one other with love and forgiveness. 'If we fall out, we forgive each other,' said one pupil, 'because Jesus forgave when he was on the cross.' Staff work tirelessly to support families and the school is seen as a 'beacon of light' in the community. Parents and carers describe movingly how initiatives like the school's food bank and 'community wardrobe' sustain families through times of financial difficulty. 'This school is a gift', said one parent. 'Everyone is treated equally. Staff go the extra mile to help.'

Shaped by the school's Christian vision of encouraging all pupils to shine, the RE curriculum is carefully crafted and sequenced. Supported by highly effective RE leadership, supplemented by regular involvement from local clergy, teachers are confident in their subject knowledge. Reflecting the diversity of the school, RE plays a significant role in developing pupils' comprehensive understanding of a range of world faiths and worldviews. Pupils love RE, engage enthusiastically and show their learning in a range of creative ways, notably through art. Reflective pupil responses demonstrate how the questioning curriculum enables them to think about theological concepts and their own beliefs. For example, older pupils thoughtfully link Jesus' courage in standing up to injustice with modern day examples.

St Barnabas is a caring, joyful and compassionate Church school. Its hopeful Christian vision sustains adults and pupils through times of change, empowering them to 'shine like stars' in their local community.



Information			
School	St Barnabas Church of England Primary Academy, Manchester	Inspection date	15 November 2022
URN	137866	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Manchester	Pupils on roll	230
MAT/Federation	Vantage Multi-Academy Trust		
Principal	Charmain May		
Chair of Trust Board	Ellie Kuitunen		
Inspector	Sue Mawdsley	No.	930