



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Woodhouses Church of England Primary School	
Address	Ashton Road, Woodhouses, Failsworth, M35 9WL
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
'Let your light shine before others.' This is based on Matthew 5:15.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision has been renewed and rejuvenated by the 'SHINE' ethos that is related to the vision. The values and biblical roots of the vision ensure strategic Christian leadership is challenging and aspirational for pupils and staff. • The vision results in a school family where all are nurtured, included and enabled to flourish. The positive relationships which exist are key to the school's continued growth and development. • The school's engagement with a range of formal partners contributes significantly to the effectiveness of the school. Future church school leaders emerge as a direct consequence of the federation with another school. The partnership with the church community is not as strong. • Collective worship is valued as a time to come together, reflect and explore the Christian vision. Pupils currently have limited opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship. • Religious education (RE) gives pupils a secure knowledge of Christianity and a range of major world faiths. Opportunities to share practice and good subject leadership impact positively on teaching and learning.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase opportunities for pupils to take an active role in developing worship provision so that they are enabled to impact more directly on the lives of others. • To strengthen the partnership with the church community, which will support pupils with a deepening of their spiritual development.



Inspection findings

The school community at Woodhouses welcomes everyone with open arms and happy smiles. The Christian vision leads to an expectation that all members of the school will shine brightly and reflect the school's clear values. The vision was developed, shared and is understood by staff, governors, parents and pupils. Pupils say the vision is important and helps them be the best they can be. The underpinning biblical roots of the vision give a clear focus to its relevance in a Church school. The roots spread and extend systematically through the life and work of the school. Each letter in the 'SHINE' ethos represents an aspiration for pupils. Following these values gives pupils the skills to engage positively with the world around them. A system is in place for leaders to monitor the impact of the vision. This results in clear priorities for the development of the school as a Church school. This means the vision continually evolves to meet the school's needs.

Strong Christian leadership, commitment to inclusion and positive relationships result in a school described by staff as a family team. This outward facing school embraces partnership work. The close links with another Church school have been a catalyst to enhance and build on the school's effectiveness. Staff benefit from shared training and leadership opportunities between the schools. The partnership with the diocese is central to vision development and building the knowledge and skills of governors. Despite the church having limited capacity to support the school, foundation governors nonetheless work well with leaders to maintain its Anglican roots. Pupils visit the church building, which gives them an understanding of Anglican traditions and events from local history.

Parents speak highly of the way the school meets the needs of learners. They praise the nurturing environment, saying all are treated equally. The enquiry based curriculum encourages pupils to respond to 'big questions' and develops independent learners and thinkers. Alongside collective worship, the broad curriculum leads to a progressive development of spirituality. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are welcomed, included and well supported. Strategic decisions are taken to invest in specialist support, for example, speech and language therapy. Parents give examples of how pupils' academic progress, and skills acquired around character development, make for successful transition to high school and beyond.

The vision ensures this is a happy and caring school. The curriculum provides a framework where difference is valued and celebrated. Classes take the names of famous people, for example, Turing and Lowry. They discuss their lives and the way they inspire them as role models. Pupils articulately discuss protected characteristics, for example, gender and race. They discuss complex issues with maturity and compassion and believe in free choice and equal treatment. Pupils take on a variety of leadership roles including the 'Shine Squad'. These give them a voice to promote the vision with their peers.

The vision leads to very good pupil behaviour. They have high expectations of themselves and others and see adults as role models for forgiveness. Pastoral staff, counselling services and interventions support the wellbeing of pupils and adults. These include an emotional literacy support programme. Staff feel happy and fortunate to work here. Leaders attend 'Trauma Informed' training to support pupils with emotional and social development. The 'Woodland Room' provides a sanctuary for pupils, who say it helps them feel calm. As a result, pupils can identify their own feelings and know where to seek help.

The school is regarded well in the local community and neighbours praise the exemplary conduct of pupils. The community support a 'Reindeer Run' through the village, helping the school raise money for a local hospice. Pupils raise funds for a range of local, national and

global charities. They take food to a foodbank following a Harvest celebration. Pupils are aware of social injustice and sponsor a child's education in Africa. The vision inspires them to instigate social action. Pupils request to make and sell friendship bracelets for a dementia charity. 'Picture News' develops global awareness and pupils confidently respond to issues raised. As a result, they develop skills around courageous advocacy and are prepared to take action. The vision enhances pupils' understanding of their responsibilities towards the natural world. They discuss the protection of wildlife and create bug hotels and bird feeders. Pupils link this to the story of Noah's Ark.

Staff describe collective worship as a pivotal time of the day where all are invited and included. The vision tightly underpins acts of worship and pupils relate it to the way they live. Pupils discuss the concept of God as three. They say God is a father because 'He created all life and sent his Son down to earth.' Worship provision is strengthened by the link with the 'Groundbreakers' mission. Visiting worship leaders explore Christian values in a creative way.

Collective worship provides daily opportunities for prayer and reflection. Pupils proudly lead the school prayer they wrote together. Class worship areas provide safe spaces to pray and reflect. Pupils write prayers thanking God for their families and asking for help for people in need. They say they find prayer helpful to express their feelings, show love for God or say sorry. Pupils discuss the different ways Christians worship. They develop spiritually through joyful singing and learn traditional hymns sung by the church congregation. Elderly residents say they feel uplifted during school celebrations of Christian festivals. Pupils have limited opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship.

RE is well led and managed. Engagement with a local support group for RE leaders is valued. It is a way of keeping up to date with curriculum development, resources and good practice in teaching and learning. This means staff feel confident and well supported to teach RE. Pupils with SEND say they particularly enjoy RE as they can express their views and beliefs verbally and pictorially. RE gives pupils a good knowledge of the Bible and the life of Jesus. They relate events from the Bible to key Christian concepts. For example, they relate the Easter story to the concept of resurrection. RE teaching enables pupils to speak confidently about features of major world faiths. Hindu pupils share their experiences of the Holi festival. Parents see their children apply RE knowledge to real life contexts. For example, a pupil spontaneously identified parts of a mosque during a holiday. In summary, this is a school where the Christian vision encourages everyone to be proud of their individual lights. As a result, they flourish and gleam brightly together to achieve success as a school community.

Information			
School	Woodhouses Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	9 March 2023
URN	105688	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Manchester	Pupils on roll	131
Executive Headteacher	Helen Woodward		
Chair of Governors	Richard Mullin		
Inspector	Anne Barker	No.	959