

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Leigh Church of England Primary School	
Address	Henrietta Street, Leigh, WN7 1LP
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)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>'Creating a Better Future', stems from our Christian inspiration and is outworked in a desire to see all children flourish and thrive. We follow Jesus' example of love, nurture and care which transforms lives. Pupils and adults can soar in a safe and nurturing environment, with an enriching education. 'How precious is Your loving devotion, O God, that the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.' (Psalm 36: 7)</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theologically rooted, deeply Christian vision transforms the lives of pupils and adults because it underpins every action taken by leaders. The result is exceptional flourishing for every member of the school community. • Myriad opportunities for spiritual development permeate the school curriculum and flow through every aspect of school life. This draws pupils into deep and profound reflection, leading to exceptional spiritual growth. • Pupil behaviour is exemplary within the harmonious life of the whole school. This is because the school actively welcomes and celebrates difference and diversity. All are warmly embraced in a culture of all-encompassing acceptance, and therefore flourish. • Joyful collective worship opportunities, with the vision at heart, inspire pupils to consider their place in God's world. Pupils on the ethos team lead and develop worship. However, other pupils do not always have these opportunities. • The religious education (RE) curriculum provides richness and depth in theological and philosophical content which pupils are eager to explore and reflect upon. They know that they are at liberty to think their own thoughts. Worldviews are less well understood.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pupils' experience and understanding of a wide variety of worldviews so that they continue to flourish through their RE learning. • Extend the already considerable range of opportunities that pupils have to lead and develop collective worship. Opening the opportunity to those beyond the ethos team will enable more pupils to have ownership of this activity.

Inspection findings

Leigh Church of England Primary School is a wonderfully warm and welcoming family, an oasis, at the heart of a busy town centre. The deceptively simple yet deeply Christian vision of 'creating a better future' weaves through each and every aspect of school provision. It truly transforms lives. School leaders and the local governing board work in partnership with leaders at The Wings' Multi-academy Trust (MAT). This open, honest, trusting relationship and the passionate leadership of the headteacher have coalesced, creating a deeply loving culture. Partnership with the MAT, including training and support, leads to significant development as a Church school. This is particularly evident over the last five years. Governors and trustees are actively invested in the school, and give considerable time and expertise. They embody the vision, which explicitly drives their decisions about everything from staffing to how to improve attendance. As the headteacher states, 'putting children and their futures at the heart of everything makes even tough decisions and difficult conversations possible'. Leaders place the wellbeing of everyone at the very heart of their work. Staff know this, and it equips them to spread this care and love to the pupils. Knowing that they are trusted and valued ensures that staff feel empowered and give their very best. Staff new to the school describe how they immediately feel 'wrapped within the school family' and receive support from everyone. Leaders have robust systems in place to systematically evaluate the impact of the vision on pupil and adult flourishing. This includes an annual review and development day where actions are planned that impact positively on school improvement. Leaders invite pupils and staff so that their views are taken into account. Such practice is inherent within the school. It is just one facet of the extraordinary and exceptional routine, which leads to excellent flourishing for all.

The school has a cohesive, broad, ambitious curriculum, skilfully woven through with countless opportunities that promote spiritual development. Pupils are eager to discuss learning and their excellent progress. They embrace the rich culture of deep reflection that leads them to grow spiritually and to ponder the mysteries of life. Pupils are very clear about how they learn and that careful questioning supports them with challenging concepts. Pupils value what they describe as 'gentle feedback about what we can do even better'. Relationships are particularly strong at Leigh, fostered by the care each member of staff displays for every child. Pupils see and emulate this in their interactions with each other. For them, exemplary behaviour and polite conduct is so normal, they hardly give it a thought. They spontaneously demonstrate acceptance, love and care for their peers, value diversity and eagerly welcome new arrivals. Pupils are clear that those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive support from staff to manage their behaviour and access learning. Exclusions are rare and a last resort, used to provide support from external agencies to create a better future. Staff tailor support for pupils because they know and understand each one as a unique individual. Parents value this aspect of school, and the approachability of staff, above all else. They know that their child and the whole family will receive support from school whenever it is needed. Pupils explain clearly how the Christian value of forgiveness is so vital to managing their behaviour, leading to reconciliation. Older pupils and well-being ambassadors explain confidently how they support others with friendships. The depth of acceptance, love and care displayed by everyone ensures dignity and respect for all. Pupils are inordinately proud of their all-round growth, and quick to recognize and celebrate when they see others blossoming.

Pupils are zealous in their drive to live out the vision and create a better future for others. They explore the actions of courageous advocates, both past and present, and use this as inspiration. What they see and hear drives them to make a positive difference, tackle social




injustice and become agents of change. Several pupils are currently outraged by the effects of fly tipping near to the school. They arranged the removal of litter to prevent a resident in a mobility scooter having to drive around it into the road. Now they are taking further action, a letter requesting bins, to their local MP. For pupils, living out the vision by watching over the local and wider global community, is 'just what we do'. However, leaders intentionally plan for this in order to prepare pupils exceptionally well for life beyond primary school.

Collective worship truly is at the heart of school life. Pupils value the time to come together, as do adults. The school regularly visits church for services, such as when celebrating the start of the school arts festival. Pupils, staff and parents relish the opportunity to fill the church with joyful song. Worship is warm, welcoming and inspirational. Pupils and adults engage enthusiastically. Members of the pupil ethos team confidently lead services and school collective worship. Many pupils take the opportunity to pray thoughtfully and recite the school prayer with conviction. Leaders plan worship carefully so that pupils' are very knowledgeable about Bible stories, courageous advocacy and the importance of reflection time. Varied experiences fully engage pupils and call them to explore their potential as children of God. The pupil ethos team, to which pupils are elected each year, support with the leadership of collective worship. Pupils not on the ethos team do not always have the opportunity to plan and lead worship. Reflective areas in classrooms and outside invite pupils to extend reflection and prayer beyond gathering for worship. All pupils value the chance to use these opportunities and many do. Father Kevin, and his dog Brian, are regular visitors to school, and fondly regarded by pupils. He extends a warm welcome to the school community. This causes pupils and staff to describe how they feel 'uplifted' by visits to church. Pupils' eagerness to embrace the inspirational worship opportunities provided adds immeasurably to their growth and development.

RE is excellent because of highly effective subject leadership and the ambitious, well-planned curriculum, which includes deep, thought-provoking questions. Teachers create a safe space where pupils critically reflect on their own and others' views. Pupils are justly proud of their extensive knowledge and understanding of religions, including Christianity and its impact on people worldwide. Understanding of worldviews is less developed. Robust monitoring and ongoing support enables teachers to develop pupils' philosophical and religious understanding, including core theological concepts. Systems for feedback to pupils are efficient and effective.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>Progress and achievement in religious education is excellent because pupils follow a rich and challenging curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to think deeply about a range of theological and philosophical questions. They are enthusiastic and eager to engage deeply in reflection, and are confident to think and share their own views. Teaching and learning is consistently excellent across school, supported by the systematic monitoring of leaders and governors.</p>			
Information				
School	Leigh Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	13 June 2023	
URN	144609	VC/VA/Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Manchester	Pupils on roll	288	
MAT/Federation	The Wings' CE Trust			
Headteacher	Clare Oxborough			
Chair of Trust Board	Andrea Atherton			
Inspector	Melanie Barratt	No.	2104	