

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Primary School, Dukinfield	
Address	Westmorland Avenue, Dukinfield, SK16 5JA
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	Excellent

School's vision
<p>Love of God, Love of Neighbour, Love of Oneself</p> <p>St John's distinctively Christian character is embedded in all aspects of school life. Christian values form the basis of all we do. We are constantly striving to be the best versions of ourselves by developing personally, spiritually and academically. Worship forms the basis of our ethos where we can experience our love of God. The Christian values we live by daily prepare us to be a community of faith in action showing love to our neighbour and our vision is for our children to have a strong feeling of self-worth as they are a unique part of God's creation and have a voice that is worth hearing schools actions.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships at St John's are built on love and have a tangible influence on all in the community. Exceptional leadership supports the wellbeing and good mental health of all members of the 'St John's family'. • Religious education (RE) is innovative and exciting. A progressive curriculum offers pupils the opportunity to succeed. Thought provoking questions encourage pupils to take risks and dive deeper. This gives them a clear understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. • Collective worship plays a central role in the daily life of the school, it is inclusive, invitational and has impact. This enables pupils to grow in self confidence and to shine. • Leaders at all levels accurately identify the need to extend the school's provision for spirituality. The way pupils and adults demonstrate a shared understanding of spirituality within the context of a church school is underdeveloped. • Governors are very visible and supportive. However, the robustness of the way they monitor the impact of the vision on how adults and pupils flourish is less developed.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a clear, shared understanding of spirituality exists throughout the school. This is to enhance the curriculum and school life with deepening experiences which will enrich the spiritual development of pupils and adults. • Strengthen the robustness of systems to enable the effective monitoring of the impact of the school's distinctive Christian vision. This is to ensure future developments enrich the Christian foundation of the school.



Inspection findings

St John's is a warm and welcoming school. Proud of their Christian foundation, their vision is displayed proudly in the entrance hall and around the school building. A magnificent prayer tree provides all with the opportunity to share prayers and reflections, enriching their spiritual development. Thus highlighting the Christian narrative which underpins each day in the school. Exceptional Christian leadership at all levels ensures pupils are given the best start in life and all are encouraged to be the best 'St Johnners' they can be.

Strong links with St John's church enable the vicar to lead weekly worship. Pupils enjoy being active participants in the worship, enjoying action songs and prayers. Parents and carers value the opportunity to join in worship services that are led by pupils. A youth pastor has recently been working in the school with younger pupils. This has fostered strong links between the school and the local church. The diocese recognise the headteacher as 'passionately committed to the community she serves'. St John's outward looking ethos is clear in the support provided for a neighbouring school. Training provided by the diocese and local authority extends staffs skills and their understanding of the school and its Christian foundation.

Staff talk fervently about how the Christian vision at St John's can be 'felt' and the values are Christian embodiment in action. The love and support they have for each other is a living example for pupils. This results in excellent relationships and high staff morale. Adults care about all pupils and ensure they have the best opportunities every day. Staff feel very valued and supported by their senior leaders. This enables them to have good mental health in turn leading to their flourishing.

Parents speak passionately about the personal and individual support they have received from St John's. Parents demonstrate a deep connection with Christian foundation of the school with many of them attending the school as pupils themselves. They describe the 'pull' back of the school and their personal and embedded understanding of its vision and culture. As many say, 'once a St Johnner, always a St Johnner'. The vision of 'love your neighbour' is lived out in special bonds of care which are evident throughout the school. The long standing buddy system which pairs Reception and Year 6 pupils exemplifies this love in action. The way staff encourage pupils to forgive one another creates a cohesive and harmonious environment. The behaviour policy is underpinned by the Christian value of forgiveness. Through the culture of care and respect that this creates, parents feel their children are 'truly in safe hands.' Staff support pupils in taking responsibility for their words and actions. Pupils demonstrate a willingness to forgive one another. They are simply asked to reflect, 'is that what a St Johnner would do?' Through the living out of the Christian vision, pupils have a clear sense of right and wrong which enhances relationships. This provides life-lasting skills.

Invitational and inclusive collective worship is a focal point of the day. It is a time all have the opportunity to explore the love of God. Worship helps pupils' gain an understanding of how the vision impacts on their daily lives. Pupils and staff have the opportunity to explore many religious and non-religious text in worship. This is enhanced through opportunities to reflect on the Christian messages and values of these texts in class reflection time. The detailed planning for worship is based on the Anglican calendar, with a range of other religious festivals shared and celebrated. Pupils are invited to pray and praise God by singing. They eagerly answer questions and enjoy recapping prior learning. Pupils do not currently have opportunities to evaluate worship in ways that improve practice. Pupils enthusiastically take on some leadership roles. The 'tech team' support the headteacher with the sound and electronics during daily worship giving pupils time for reflective thoughts. The 'ethos team'

have previously hosted an ethos day and this year attended a local conference. This deepens their understanding of what it means to 'love your neighbour'.

The vision of love of neighbour inspires pupils to take social action and they support a range of charities. Water Aid and the local foodbank are supported by pupils and their families. Pupils have a good understanding of inequality and how to challenge injustice and courageously bring about change. Support for a local shopkeeper, in terms of letters and prayers, was initiated by pupils. The positive impact of this is still felt in the local community. Pupils speak with conviction of the way people are all different but all deserve to be treated the same. Governors are very visible in the school, often visiting lessons, talking to children and living out the vision in action. They clearly articulate the biblical understanding which supports and upholds the school's vision statement. A deep awareness of this is reflected in recruitment decisions. However, the way they evaluate the vision's influence over school life and the theology that underpins it is underdeveloped. RE is recognised as an exciting and inspiring subject which strongly reflects the school's Christian vision. The curriculum is planned very well using an effective balance in line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. Pupils enjoy RE because it is challenging and motivating, enabling them to think deeply about their beliefs and those of others. Pupils speak of how 'they resemble God's actions'. Pupils enjoy asking probing questions, listening respectfully to one another. This develops their critical thinking skills and gives them a safe space to dive deeper. They have a good understanding of Christianity as a living and diverse faith. Year 6 pupils have explored texts and deep thinking about Humanism and are 'never afraid' to ask difficult questions. They show good levels of interest and respectful understanding of a range of faiths. The subject is passionately led and is well-supported by the RE link governor. RE is given a high priority within school improvement, giving pupils high quality learning experiences and the opportunities to flourish.

Although there is not a school wide definition of what spirituality is, pupils have to opportunity to reflect, pray and be still. Every classroom has a reflection area where pupils proudly display working floor books. Reflections demonstrate the many ways that pupils live out the value of love taken from the vision. Flowing from the vision, the school nurtures all adults and pupils. Behaviour is exemplary and attendance is very good. The whole school community is encouraged to live out the vision through their interactions and relationships in everyday life.

Information			
School	St John's Church of England Primary School, Dukinfield	Inspection date	22 May 2023
URN	106228	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Chester	Pupils on roll	331
Head Teacher	Mrs Victoria Hewitt Lee		
Chair of Governors	Mrs Dawn Warrington		
Inspector	Claire Clark	No.	2203