

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

St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Brinnington	
Address	Brinnington Rise, Brinnington, Stockport, SK5 8AA
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
Unique and precious in God's eyes, be the best that you can be.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinctive Christian vision is the firm foundation on which this school stands. Its values stem from this and as a result, all members of the school community can articulate how the vision and values positively impact their lives.</li> <li>The Christian vision enables all to live with dignity and respect. Generous help and support is provided for all who need it. Difference is celebrated and embraced. This creates a school which is an oasis of calm and safety where all are welcomed and flourish.</li> <li>Opportunities for reflection are woven into the daily life of the school, enabling staff and pupils to grow spiritually. However, planned activities to explore the language and meaning of spirituality are not widely evident.</li> <li>Christian values are the starting point for collective worship, infusing individuals and the daily life of the school and community. Pupils' involvement in planning and leading collective worship is in its infancy.</li> <li>Religious Education (RE) is well led and the standard of pupils' subject specific vocabulary is a strength. This enables pupils to effectively debate big questions of life and faith. Following the introduction of the new syllabus, there has been some initial staff training. Not all teachers are fully confident in their teaching of the subject.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and promote a shared definition and vocabulary of spirituality to enable all to articulate its impact.</li> <li>Continue the programme of training and development of teachers in the implementation of the new RE syllabus. This will further build staff confidence in teaching the subject and further strengthen pupil outcomes.</li> <li>Further develop the role of pupils in planning and leading of collective worship. This will enhance pupils' confidence and add to the richness of worship in school.</li> </ul>

### Inspection findings

St Paul's Brinnington is an oasis of calm and safety. The Christian vision and associated values permeate this caring community creating an atmosphere of acceptance, dignity and respect. All adults and pupils are considered to be unique and precious in the eyes of God. Because of this, everyone in the school community is encouraged to be the best that they can be. Through the vision there is a collective purpose which inspires everyone to flourish.

The Christian vision and values are lived throughout the daily life of the school. They are understood by everybody, enabling each person to make positive choices. Leaders and governors demonstrate how the vision is firmly rooted in the Bible and how it reflects the local context. Its effectiveness as a Church school is monitored through a clear programme of evaluation. Leaders ensure the vision shapes and informs all aspects of development, policies and actions. Staff are encouraged to develop their professionalism and understanding of Church school education. This leads to a high level of confidence and competence. The Christian values of compassion and respect are reflected in relationships and well-being of staff and pupils is a priority for leaders. There is a very strong feeling of togetherness in every situation. This resonates throughout the school community and touches everyone. It gives the school a sense of unity and purpose which clearly reflect the Christian vision and values.

At St Paul's, no limit has been set to anyone's potential. Everyone believes they can be the best that they can be. Inspirational and relatable role models are chosen for pupils to study, reinforcing the idea that anything is possible. The school's Christian values are promoted throughout daily life and pupils' achievements relating to these are celebrated weekly. This helps to create an atmosphere of aspiration and self-belief which helps everyone reflect upon themselves and the relationships they have with one another. Consequently, pupils thrive.

The school's Christian value of forgiveness is the foundation for a restorative approach to strengthening relationships. Everyone is seen as unique and precious in the eyes of God. Pupils are taught to practice forgiveness and reconciliation when they argue, helping them formulate positive friendships. They are taught how to recognise and build healthy relationships and to treat each other with respect and dignity. Teachers devote regular time for pupils to discuss and explore issues. Therefore, pupils know their voice is heard and their feelings respected. Thus, everyone in school lives and works well together.

The belief that all are precious in God's eyes, drives the priority of providing support for the most vulnerable. This includes pupils with special educational needs and disability. Behaviour, pastoral and learning support specialists are employed to ensure that pupils access learning, whatever their challenge. Mental health and well-being interventions mirror the school's Christian value of compassion. Thus, vulnerable children are thriving here.

The school's curriculum, shaped by the vision, sees every pupil as unique and wonderfully made. It has been deliberately crafted to encourage pupils to be inquisitive, creative and questioning. It inspires pupils to develop their interests, recognise their talents and discover the world. Opportunities are sought to experience the awe and wonder of the richness of God's creation. This helps to create a sense of responsibility for the world. As a result, pupils take action when confronted with local, national and international issues that concern them. They feel empowered by the school's vision and values to stand up against injustice, inequality and discrimination. As a consequence, pupils are becoming agents for change in their own and others' lives. A sense of courageous advocacy for justice is emerging in the school.

Collective worship and prayer are at the heart of the school and add richness to the lives of everyone. All are invited to participate. Many different worship styles are used to ensure that worship is open to

all. As a result, all feel welcomed and included. The school's Christian values are its starting point and are explored in turn, every half term. Worship challenges and deepens staff and pupils' thinking, and influences their actions. Leaders ensure that all encounter the teachings of Jesus and explore the relevance of the Bible in today's world. Thus, the school community understands the importance and relevance of Christianity as a living, diverse, world faith. Pupils' involvement in planning and leading is in its infancy. This means that pupil voice in worship is limited.

The school is developing its understanding and approach to spiritual development. A method to promote reflection, 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors', has recently been introduced. This is beginning to have an impact on the spiritual life of the school. It helps pupils to ask big questions, reflect on their thoughts and feelings, and challenges them to act. Well used reflection areas in each classroom have artwork and resources which offer space for quiet contemplation. These are valued and promote reflection, prayer and opportunities for stillness. Planned activities to explore the language and meaning of spirituality are not widely used. This means that not all can fluently explain its impact and value.

Religious Education (RE) is well led and planning is effective. The school recently adopted the new agreed syllabus for the local area. The subject leader has completed training in delivering the new scheme and has started to share this with teachers. However, this is not yet complete and so some staff are not confident in teaching it. Within RE lessons, pupils are given the opportunity to respond to big questions. They are given a safe space to critically reflect on their own religious, spiritual and philosophical convictions. Pupils have acquired a good level of subject-specific vocabulary to enable them to do this successfully. They have a good knowledge of Bible stories and can say how these are relevant in today's world. The recent Faith Week demonstrated that pupils have an informed and respectful understanding of a range of worldviews and religions.

St Paul's is an example of God's love in action. Its Christian vision is lived throughout the daily life of the school. Everyone is valued for being unique and precious in God's eyes. Thus, this is a school where people flourish and enjoy 'life in all its fullness'.

Information			
School	St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Brinnington	Inspection date	25 May 2023
URN	106108	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese/District	Chester	Pupils on roll	389
Headteacher	Joanne Harrington		
Chair of Governors	Anne Rogowski		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery	No.	C 21/22