

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Holy Family RC & CE College, Heywood	
Address	Pot Hall, Wilton Grove, Heywood, OL10 2AA
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>All who come to Holy Family College have unique gifts, talents, and dreams. Being part of Holy Family gives us roots to stand tall and strong, and nurture the values that underpin all that we do – Faith, Integrity, Compassion, Perseverance and Community. We are all the richer for being part of Holy Family, as we know our place in God's world.</p> <p>'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, we will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing' John 15:5</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vibrant and deeply embedded Christian vision is firmly underpinned by and summed up in John 15:5. This is lived out through the school values and motto 'we are one'. Resulting in a school community who flourish spiritually, socially, emotionally, and academically. • Spirituality is a natural part of everyday life at Holy Family and is readily recognised and expressed through relationships. All see themselves as supported by the school on their own individual spiritual journey. • Holy Family maximises every opportunity to care for members of their community. Including support for wellbeing, mental health, charity work and social action. Students are developing their expertise as agents of change and are ready to challenge injustice beyond their current horizons. • Varied and relevant collective worship impacts extremely positively on all members of the school family. Student leaders are passionate about worship and are in a strong position to grow the work of the chaplaincy team still further. • Exceptional religious education (RE) teaching and a bespoke curriculum ensure very positive outcomes, character development and attitudes towards learning.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further inspire and enable students to become global agents of change. Supporting social action and making a difference in the lives of others or the natural environment internationally. • Share and develop the highly effective practice within the chaplaincy team. This is so that student's infectious enthusiasm for leading worship continues to draw others in.



Inspection findings

The Christian vision of John 15:5 infuses all aspects of school life. Students correctly describe the vision as 'our way of life'. All members of the school community can identify the impact of the vision on their daily lives. Leaders are guided by the vision in their decision making. Governors are well informed, visible and involved in school life. Church school effectiveness is carefully monitored at all levels. At governors' meetings it is always the first item on the agenda. Leaders demonstrate their determined commitment to the flourishing of all. This is demonstrated through their willingness to share staff and governor expertise with other schools, for example through staff secondment.

A humble approach ensures that leaders are eager to seek advice and support. This is so that members of the school community can become the best versions of themselves, described by the school as fruitful. Adults and students are flourishing at Holy Family, one member of staff described the school as having 'regalvanised my love of teaching'. Staff are clearly supported in their development as members of a Church school. This includes the new staff induction programme and continues with the annual Spiritual Day. Leaders have prioritised relationships with both the Diocese of Manchester and the Diocese of Salford. They have carefully navigated a wise path to honour and treasure both the Anglican and Catholic foundations of the school.

Holy Family nurtures a deep culture of self-reflection. The spiritual life of the school is both a part of everyday life and the still centre from which everything grows. Students and adults speak with confidence about spirituality and their experience of it. Whilst recognising that their spirituality does not exist in isolation but is informed, challenged, and developed through relationships. Within worship and the curriculum careful attention is given to spiritual development. This ensures that no opportunity for spontaneous reflection is overlooked. The annual staff Spiritual Day is highly effective in prioritising space for adult reflection. The governor spiritual development and wellbeing committee are well informed and understand the importance of reflection in daily school life.

The thriving school council takes a lead role in social action and instigating change in school and the community. Including moving to a single use plastic free dining room, developing a school wellbeing day and plans for a prayer garden. The curriculum also contains numerous carefully planned opportunities for students to become agents of change. Such as pen pals with Year 6 pupils to support transition and the Beacon School Programme for Holocaust education. These structures and planned opportunities mean that students are confident their ideas for student led social action will be facilitated by the school. There are some links in place to ensure that social action has a global dimension. However, at present these links only represent the international Catholic faith community not yet the Anglican faith community.

A bespoke curriculum for personal development contributes to all pupils flourishing. Bold financial decisions have been made to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are met. These decisions regarding staffing and curriculum are explicitly linked by leaders to the vision and values. Students and parents recognise the pastoral support they receive is a true partnership between home and school. Behaviour is exemplary and students feel safe. They are adamant that this is a safe place to be an individual and their views are recognised and acted upon.


Collective worship provides a deep well of encouragement and reflection for all members of the community, not just school staff and students. This is expertly developed by the chaplaincy team. The role of student faith ambassadors is an innovative and extremely



effective method of enabling student involvement and leadership in worship. Student worship leaders are now ready to share their expertise even further both within school and the wider community. All who are involved in leading worship receive appropriate training, support and provision of resources including time. Members of the school community identify that worship time is essential to them whatever their background. Relationships between local clergy and the school are mutually beneficial. Everyone responds flexibly to ensure that worship is accessible to all. Reflection opportunities such as Mindfulness Monday and Tech Free Tuesday are highly valued. Students are confident to pray spontaneously within form collective worship. The retreat programme allows worship, spirituality and wellbeing activities to be explored in greater depth and to complement one another. Students and families can see the highly beneficial impact that retreats have in enabling them to recognise the importance of faith in daily life.

The school has curated a RE curriculum that meticulously meets the needs of their context and both Anglican and Roman Catholic expectations. The choice of which religions to study at GCSE has been made after careful consideration of the needs of the local community. As a result, students approach RE lessons with exceptionally positive attitudes and are thoroughly engaged with their learning. All students feel safe to explore their personal convictions within RE lessons. Students know that they will be able to do so in a mutually respectful environment. The curriculum is constantly under review to ensure that it meets the needs of all. Therefore, preparations are in place to introduce a qualification in RE for students for whom GCSE does not meet their needs. Visits and speakers are used to help students understand that religious beliefs are not static and introduce them to a variety of worldviews. Assessment procedures are well understood by students who then improve their work precisely. This makes a significant contribution to maintaining consistently high examination standards. Outside of the school members of the RE department contribute to a wide range of diocesan and exam board RE networks. Staff are always exceptionally willing to learn from others and share their expertise.

As it says over the school door, you do indeed take a small piece of Holy Family College with you when you leave.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	As a result of the carefully crafted curriculum meeting the needs of students and two diocese, consistently strong academic progress is made. Expert teaching, deep subject knowledge and rigorous improvement focussed monitoring ensure that all students regardless of age, ability or background are flourishing in RE.			
Information				
School	Holy Family RC & CE College, Heywood	Inspection date	19 June 2023 - 20 June 2023	
URN	131726	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Manchester	Pupils on roll	744	
Headteacher	Karen Ames			
Chair of Governors	John McAuley			
Inspector	Ruth Houston	No.	947	