

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

John Keble Church of England Primary School, Harlesden	
Address	Crownhill Road, Harlesden, NW10 4DR
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>Rooted together in love, growing without limits...</p> <p>Believing in the worth of every individual, we are a nurturing, Christian sanctuary of learning, where all can flourish. We aspire for everyone to achieve heights of success, to deepen courage and to experience breadth of creativity, knowing the joy of God's love.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of Church school leadership at all levels is exceptional. The Christian vision drives and informs every aspect of decision-making. Leaders share their expertise widely. • Inspired by the Christian vision, the curriculum and extensive additional opportunities provide pupils with rich spiritual and cultural experiences. The extent to which pupils' knowledge of global disadvantage guides them as agents of change is less developed. • A deep commitment to treating each person with dignity and respect underpins this welcoming, harmonious community. Fostering pupils' character and moral judgement encourages them in standing up for what is right. • Collective worship reflecting the teachings and practices of the Anglican tradition, is celebratory, inclusive and inspirational. It offers both adults and pupils points of valued, peaceful, daily reflection. Active pupil involvement in worship and invitational reflection areas leads to rich spiritual flourishing. • Pupils thrive in their learning in religious education (RE). Enjoying the challenges that their teachers set them, they respond enthusiastically. They demonstrate a mature, accurate understanding that reflects their knowledge of Christianity and a range of world faiths and views.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further empower pupils with the knowledge and skills to engage in social action. Extend their awareness of national and global issues, so that they may become confident agents of change.

Inspection findings

John Keble Church of England school transforms the lives of adults and pupils. Carefully considered, deeply and widely recognised and appreciated, the Christian vision underpins all decisions and actions. It infuses policies and guides all school improvement and self-evaluation including its success as a Church school. Consequently, all decisions faithfully reflect its stated Christian belief in the worth of every individual. Governors ensure that leaders have the skills and resources necessary to meet the long-term, complex needs of the school community. Following Jesus' pattern, leaders work alongside staff, ensuring each may enhance their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of pupils. They invest in developing all members of staff resulting in exceptional professional fulfilment. Staff are very well supported, including receiving supervision to help them process difficult social and family issues. Serving a diverse community, leaders care about and work hard to gain respect and commitment from all families. Parents speak of 'integrity and consistency' and say that communication is excellent. A Muslim parent says that she feels welcome and that she has no doubt her children are fully included. Parents say that the school lives out its vision, that the Christian ethos is 'brimming in relationships'.

The school's approach to its curriculum inspires learning by both teachers and pupils. It enables teachers to open pupils' minds to ethical, moral and philosophical enquiry. For example, in comparing signs of spring with autumn, younger pupils talk about care for the natural world. Science lessons include an experiment to look at the effect of melting ice caps. Timed alongside 'Climate Awareness Week,' pupils consider small steps they can take every day to make a difference. Inspired further through attending a national climate conference, a pupil led a whole school worship. Reflecting upon the wonder of creation in science includes exploring the solar system. Pupils consider how to represent the size of the planets and their distance from the sun to scale. Exploring a model to understand different phases of the moon as it orbits around earth excites awe and wonder. Pupils are actively interested in global society, proposing a prayer wall for Sudan, alongside the one for Ukraine. They have a keen appetite for social action and want to develop this even more.

A warm welcome and broad and balanced curriculum ensures that pupils learn successfully from the moment they start at John Keble. High mobility in the inner London context requires rapid assessment of new arrivals, with teaching targeted to meet pupils' needs. This determined focus ensures that pupils maximise their progress and flourish in their learning. Support for pupils who are vulnerable or have additional personal or learning needs is exemplary. Pupils thrive at John Keble because leaders plan support well to meet their educational, emotional and social needs. Extensive pastoral care includes mental health support, creative and play therapy for pupils. Provision of bespoke support is clearly driven by leaders' commitment to the Christian vision. The school's leaders work closely with the most vulnerable families to enable their children to engage with learning and so flourish. A restorative approach to pupils' behaviour promotes the Christian values of forgiveness and reconciliation. Pupils learn to respect each others' differences and viewpoints, so building understanding and friendship. Parents say that hearing their children talking about resolving conflicts through forgiveness helps their family dynamics.


Wide-ranging and carefully crafted provision provides a genuine sanctuary of learning where the children of Harlesden flourish. An idyll of both tended and wild outdoor space enables pupils to engage with nature, enriching moments of spiritual development. Caring for the school's dog and guinea pigs fosters love and nurturing. A fully-funded residential visit to South Wales enables Year 6 pupils to experience awe and wonder in the natural world. Scents of the countryside and the darkness of the night sky are revealed to them. Leaders



at John Keble understand the power of spiritual experience and making such memories to transform lives.

Provision for RE is excellent, ensuring all pupils benefit from an exceptional breadth of learning about worldviews and religions. There is an appropriate focus on Christianity as a living world faith in its variety of forms. RE teachers are enthusiastic and have widespread subject knowledge. They bring vitality and expertise to their teaching, challenging pupils to be confident, inquisitive and independent in their learning. Learners respond to complex questions about religious and non-religious beliefs, practices and views, knowledgeably and with great maturity. They use religious terms and vocabulary accurately and talk knowledgeably when considering differences and similarities between religions. Visits and visitors representing a variety of religions further spark pupils' knowledge, understanding and interest while simultaneously exploring diversity and difference. Pupils express immense pride in learning a subject that 'is important, because then you can understand and respect other people'.

Worship is greatly valued by the school's diverse community for its inclusiveness and transformational impact. The pattern of worship enables the school community to experience and explore praise, worship, stillness, reflection, awe and prayerfulness. School life is underpinned by a cycle of prayer daily. Gathering together at the start of the day is a vital point for all to be still and engage spiritually. Prayer takes place at lunch and at the end of day. Love of music is a powerful force at John Keble, and the 'Songs of Praise' assembly a weekly highlight. These songs reflect the wide range of Church denominations in the Harlesden community. While highly respectful during worship, pupils thoroughly enjoy exchanging ideas and sing worship songs and hymns with gusto. Mass is celebrated in school every week and twice a term at one of the local parish churches. Pupils prepare the Bible readings and write prayers for these services. Led by Anglican priests, pupils are still and reverential during the prayers and sharing of Holy Communion. Pupils' personal faith is fostered through engagement with interactive prayer spaces across the school. 'Youth with a Mission' (YWAM) partners with the school to run a faith club weekly. Pupils learn that there is no 'right way' to pray, rather that it is a personal expression of faith. Pupils and adults who are Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim speak of feeling included, and not compromised during Christian worship. Adherence to the Church calendar structure ensures that pupils are well-versed in its seasons, rituals and routines. Immersion in varied worship and prayer has a powerful impact on the spiritual nourishment of adults and pupils alike. John Keble School contributes deeply and meaningfully to, and is enriched by, the community, religious and spiritual. It serves, and is served by, goodness.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>RE learning is highly effective in all years, through a rich and engaging curriculum. Well-taught lessons enable all pupils to acquire knowledge and make progress, including those with SEND and the most able. Pupils have high levels of religious literacy, so compare and discuss a range of views and beliefs with great insight. Pupils know their own strengths in discussing religious themes and how they can build on them. They have developed strong skills to interpret, use empathy and think for themselves.</p>			
Information				
School	John Keble Church of England Primary School, Harlesden	Inspection date	13 July 2023	
URN	101534	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	London	Pupils on roll	413	
Headteacher	Catherine Allard			
Chair of Governors	Tim Johnston			
Inspector	Rachel Jones	No.	2237	