

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Michael's Church School, Peterborough	
Address	Constantine Drive, Stanground South, Peterborough, PE2 8SZ
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>To be the best that we can be.</p> <p>Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though working for the Lord.</p> <p>(Colossians 3: 23)</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Michael's is an excellent school because it's deeply rooted Christian vision is inspirational and aspirational. As a result, being part of the school community changes lives and equips people to be the best they can. • The school's curriculum provides knowledge that is challenging, resulting in pupils becoming critical thinkers. Spirituality is securely understood and thoughtfully articulated. These combined enable pupils to be curious and pursue excellence. • Relationships drive this excellent school, enriched by its outreach work in the local and wider community. This results in St Michael's serving and being served by a culture of generosity, goodness and grace. • Collective worship is at the heart of school life because it is inclusive, invitational and inspirational. This leads to worship often being a transformational experience for pupils and adults. • Religious education (RE) is exceptionally well planned and taught. This results in every pupil growing in resilience, character, resourcefulness and success. It's high profile in the school underpins the sense of a community where everyone can flourish.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further empower the relationships pupils have with the local and wider community to engage in more social action work. • Build on the excellent opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum so the impact is fully maximised.

Inspection findings

A deeply theologically rooted Christian vision welcomes everyone into St Michael's. It drives all decisions and shapes the curriculum. As a result, pupils and adults flourish because they are empowered to be the best they can be. For example, pupils are encouraged to shine out their talents and achievements whether academic or pastoral. There is a culture to seek the ability to transform themselves and others. This is led by a dedicated leadership team. Together they are dynamic and active in their relentless pursuit of excellence in all they do. Parents appreciate the vision and work of the school; they speak of the strong values that shape their children's lives. Parents recognise pupils are challenged to think beyond themselves. Consequently, pupils have a wide range of opportunities to grow as compassionate and responsible citizens. This is seen in the good deeds pupils lead, such as collecting for the local food bank. Pupils have a clear understanding of the Christian mission they serve based on the school's vision. Leaders, including governors, have a strong sense of how the school's vision drives its work. Governors monitor its impact regularly. This ensures every aspect of this school's work is rooted back to its vision. It also focuses the school to plan strategic development based on its aspirational outlook.

The Christian vision provides a deep understanding of education St Michael's offers. No pupil is left behind. Knowledge is taught in a highly creative, planned and empowering curriculum. This enables pupils to grow their wisdom and use their learning to be confident and free-thinking individuals. Spirituality is securely understood. It is intentionally planned within the curriculum. Each subject understands where spirituality can be developed. Thus, facilitating everyone to be reflective, to be still and to consider the inherent meaning of the mysteries of life. Opportunities around the school and within collective worship deepen reflection. Each supports a rich culture of openness to the awe and wonder of God's creation.

Inclusivity is the Christian foundation of St Michael's. Every pupil is known as an individual, barriers are actively removed, and no ceiling is placed on their learning. As a result, pupils with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND), or English as an additional language exceed all expectation. Pupils, who find school difficult, thrive because of specialist support for mental health, wellbeing and behaviour. This is evident from the seamless integration of these pupils into St Michael's. Every decision made to support any pupil is based on the school undertaking God's work to enable success.


Community relationships are the bedrock of this excellent school. Deep and fruitful connections with local churches and the Cardea Community Church enrich the provision it offers. These include clergy leading worship, the community church teaching RE sessions and an integrated approach to charity work. Pupils work regularly with the community café at St Michael's church. This empowers them to live out the school's vision. Here, they share their learning and showcase their work with charities such as World Vision. The café also meets monthly in school to offer specialist support for housing, legal and financial advice. Consequently, pupils and the school, grow in their confidence to deal with difficult issues that face the local community. This often leads to transformational change that enriches the community the school serves so well. The success of this work is underpinned by the school's view of everybody being unique in the eyes of God. It is supported by an effective relationships and sex education curriculum that reinforces being open to diversity and difference. This leads to a real and physical sense of the school and community watching over each other. St Michael's has developed links beyond their local area with a school partnership in Rwanda and Watato choir in Uganda. It raises funds for the school, provides resources and friendship. Staff have visited the school and have hosted choir members, showing the generosity and grace St Michael's fosters.



Collective Worship at St Michael's is excellent. It is centred around the school's vision and core values. It enables empowerment through biblical teachings that are threaded through out it. The impact is a school community that finds deep meaning in celebrating the fullness of life that God intended. The spiritual life of the school contributes meaningfully to worship, and it provides a richness of love and compassion that is not constrained by the school's own Christian identity. Everyone is invited to be part of worship. Prayer is a central element and is welcomed by all. Pupils recognise how it can bring them closer to God in the conversations they are invited to have with him. They reflect on how worship can create moments where they feel his presence. Prayer and reflection are an integrated part of the daily life of everyone in school and is supported by a range of reflection spaces in classrooms. A multi-faith prayer space in the school is also used regularly by pupils to pray, reflect and be still. The pupil worship leaders have a strong voice and presence in the school beyond leading daily worship resulting in a pride in the work they undertake. The joyous, upbeat and active singing enlivens and enriches daily worship. Regular class led worship allows pupils to make sense of the vision and values in an age-appropriate way. This means every pupil and adult celebrates daily worship, sees its importance and feels fully included. They recognise themselves in worship because they feel comfortable in how it invites and includes everyone. This reflects the diversity of beliefs the community holds in the school.

RE is excellent because it is taught in a creative way, making RE real and alive. Pupils use drama, art, computing, music and people within the school community to gain a deep and rich understanding of a range of beliefs. They draw on religious texts and consider how religious and non-religious beliefs are formed, thought about and lived. Christianity is understood as a living, multi-cultural worldwide faith because of the carefully planned curriculum that grows knowledge cohesively and innovatively over time. The subject leader's expertise is shared within the diocese. In school the RE lead coaches' staff and cascades knowledge through the staff team, ensuring consistent and confident teaching. Active acceptance and mutual respect underpin challenge and critical thinking. It empowers pupils to question, reason and connect to a range of beliefs. Pupils recognise how RE allows them to learn about other people's beliefs and views, and to think about what they believe. This ensures RE serves the school's vision by encouraging pupils to fulfil their potential and engage in the world around them.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>Teaching is robustly monitored by school leaders as well as the diocese. The RE leader directs planning and teaches RE in all classes over the school year. They support staff to develop teaching, and this means lessons are planned to innovatively teach knowledge in a precise way. Learning is checked by rigorous assessment. Pupil work is moderated with other schools to ensure accuracy. This ensures pupils flourish, including those considered vulnerable, by making excellent progress.</p>			
Information				
School	St Michael's Church School, Peterborough	Inspection date	23 June 2023	
URN	136514	VC/VA/ Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Ely	Pupils on roll	420	
Headteacher	Rebecca Smith			
Chair of Governors	Mikala Dainter			
Inspector	Christopher Allen	No.	847	