

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

The Minster Junior School, Croydon	
Address	Warrington Road, Croydon, CR0 4BH
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
'Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another, to show love and do good.' Hebrews 10: 24-26
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lives are transformed at this excellent school. Leaders are unfailingly committed to the flourishing of pupils, adults and the wider community. Staff go above and beyond and serve with generosity, love and grace. The vision is lived and breathed with deep conviction. There is a rich culture of spirituality. Pupils are developed exceptionally well. They learn valuable life skills and are offered enrichment opportunities. These experiences are inspirational and enriching. Relationships are life-affirming. The school is a harmonious family. Pupils understand themselves as global citizens and have widespread opportunities to be courageous advocates, however this is mainly teacher led. Collective worship is a real priority of the school, through which the vision makes inspirational impact. It is varied, creative, dynamically interactive, inclusive, inspiring and invitational. Pupils and adults value collective worship as an essential part of school life. Religious education (RE) is exceptional. The progress pupils make routinely surpasses expectations. They deeply enjoy RE with passion and enthusiasm. Pupils are empowered to explore all world faiths and beliefs with curiosity and respect.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the opportunities for pupils to lead courageous advocacy to further strengthen its impact.

Inspection findings

Through its transformational Christian vision, this excellent school lovingly accepts, nurtures and empowers its community. Inspired by the character of Jesus, leaders recognise that he reached out to all, including the marginalised in society. This was so that everyone could live a flourishing life. Leaders are therefore unfailingly committed to investing in the lives of all, promoting equity and justice. Pupils and adults routinely, but profoundly, reflect how the school actively shows concern, gives help, displays love and does good. Regardless of their starting points, pupils are encouraged to fulfil their God-given potential. They have high expectations and are reflective, always seeking to continually improve to bring the vision to life.

Spiritual development is an intentional priority and strength of this excellent school. It underpins the entire curriculum and is integral to the vision. Pupils feel safe and confident talking about their beliefs, faith or worldview. Adults skilfully use questions to develop their thinking and elicit deep, meaningful peer responses. More confident pupils are given extra coaching and have access to bursaries to develop critical thinking and deeper learning opportunities. The educational environment is a sanctuary of peace and vitality. The virtues of concern and love are commonplace within the school's curriculum. This can be powerfully seen in the work the school does to challenge prejudice, intolerance and hate. In response to the Black Lives Matter Movement in 2020, leaders were committed to effectively de-colonise the curriculum. African history is now taught extensively and it creatively celebrates the diversity of the school community. The Christian values of stewardship, faith and humility seamlessly underpin all learning. This helps to shape pupils in having a moral and ethical standing. The school won an award for its creative and inspiring work commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day. This excellent practice was shared with other schools in the borough.

The work the school does to create rich and meaningful opportunities to enhance learning is exemplary. Pupils engage in weekly workshops which develop life skills and interests. Activities such as touch-typing, cooking, trampolining, football and Bible study exemplify the scope of the provision. Every member of staff teaches a workshop. This is during allocated curriculum time as well as extra-curricular clubs, highlighting the school's commitment to the wider flourishing of their pupils. Partnerships, especially with local churches, are enriching. Volunteers support year 6 pupils effectively. As they transition from the school to secondary education, they are given practical, physical and spiritual assistance. These partners inspire hope in pupils and help prepare them for this new chapter of their academic journey.

The community lives together exceptionally well. Behaviour is exemplary. Pupils understand with great sensitivity what it means to show kindness and love to one another. They rightly know that sometimes help means 'giving someone space'. Pupils feel safe and are supported diligently, even when they have the most complex needs. Difference is routinely celebrated. All believe they were created uniquely and wonderfully with their varying backgrounds, cultures, gifts and talents. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), alongside their peers, are selected to represent the school in local sporting competitions. They compete at a very high level, winning prestigious medals and awards. The school goes above and beyond to serve its community with goodness. Welfare is paramount and leaders ensure the setting is a safe place for members of the wider local community to flourish. Their work to support families is exemplary, extending beyond the normal school day and routine. For example, their relationship with the local women's refuge is a powerful representation of the vision. The school offers training and employment opportunities for them, allowing their gifts and talents to grow. They serve them and in turn




are served by them. Leaders make bold, difficult but loving decisions to ensure that pupils flourish. Their relentless focus on the attendance and integration of the more vulnerable is at the heart of the school's vision.

Pupils deeply understand their work as courageous advocates. They see it as a God-given responsibility to take care of their community and environment. For them, it is the right and just thing to do. Pupils and adults provide practical support and raise money for the local 'Baby Bank'. They write letters to the council to protect and preserve trees in their community. They have also written and taken prayers to the Grenfell Tower fire site. These are powerful examples of pupils answering the selfless question: 'what can we do?'

Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school. Pupils rightly share that it 'connects me to God'. There is a rich variety of content. Pupils take a significant consultative role in leading and developing the worship. The work of the school's Faith Ambassadors is dynamic and transformational. They routinely lead class worship and model the appropriate behaviours and attitudes: respect, reverence and reflection. There is a beautiful balance between traditional formal Anglican worship and more contemporary, interactive forms of participation. Pupils sing with great joy, conviction and skill and this is a great strength of the provision. Multiple opportunities for prayer and reflection are seamlessly woven into the life of the school, with spontaneous as well as structured times within the day. Parents are actively involved in this. They lead a prayer group which listens to and responds to the needs of pupils and staff.

Pupils flourish exceptionally well in RE. The strong teaching practice within this subject is shared MAT and diocesan wide. Adults use skilful questioning to deepen pupils' responses. A wide range of world faiths are explored and pupils routinely enjoy visits to different places of worship. An interfaith walk in the local area inspirationally brought the school's rich diversity of religions and traditions to life. Learning resources in RE are meticulously and sensitively chosen to reflect the diversity of the school community. The curriculum is meticulously planned and effectively stretches more able students as well as supporting children with SEND and more vulnerable pupils.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>Pupils flourish exceptionally well in RE. The engaging climate for learning fosters strong progress of all abilities. Teaching is responsive and inclusive. Key theological concepts and philosophical religious ideas are taught in an age-appropriate way and are effectively understood. Pupils show a rich understanding of different world views. The extent to which pupils achieve in RE routinely surpasses expectations.</p>			
Information				
School	The Minster Junior School, Croydon	Inspection date	26 June 2023	
URN	101790	VC/VA/ Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Southwark	Pupils on roll	401	
MAT/Federation	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Multi-Academy Trust			
Headteacher	Hannah Farhan			
Chair of Governors	Father Alan Bayes			
Inspector	Andrew Wignal	No.	2118	