

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

Christ Church Church of England VC Primary School, Bootle	
Address	Cornwall Road, Bootle, L20 3JL
School vision	
<p>Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.          Philippians 4: 13. 'I can do all this through Christ who strengthens me.'          Friendship, Thankfulness, Peace, Trust, Forgiveness, Compassion and Hope.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian vision is lived out in everything that the school undertakes. The vision and its associated values enable pupils and adults to flourish.</li> <li>• Relationships within the school are a strength, and wellbeing is a high priority for the school. Consequently, a caring and considerate culture has been created where pupils and adults are treated well.</li> <li>• The school is at the heart of the community. Leaders are committed to serving it well, and the partnerships they create have a positive impact enabling all pupils to flourish. The whole staff team is highly effective in responding to the specific needs of this locality.</li> <li>• Worship provides inclusive and invitational opportunities for calm reflection. Spiritual growth of pupils and adults is inspired by the focus on the Christian vision and values of the school.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) has a well-sequenced and balanced curriculum that develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of major world religions. Exploring questions gives pupils opportunities to reflect and grow spiritually.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the newly formed leadership team to embed vision within the community, and ensure that all policies and practices are led by this.</li> <li>• Develop the recently introduced language around spirituality across the curriculum. This is to further enable the spiritual flourishing of adults and pupils.</li> <li>• Through the school's Christian vision, develop pupils understanding that they can be courageous advocates. So that together, as agents of change, they can make a positive impact in the world around them.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>Christ Church is a warm and inclusive Church school at the heart of its community. The Christian vision is well known and understood by the school community. The school's core values serve as the guiding principles for pupils and adults to flourish. The commitment to teamwork fosters a sense of unity and cooperation, enabling everyone to tap into diverse skills and knowledge. From staff collaboration to pupil teams, this approach broadens horizons and enhances learning experiences, echoing the Christian vision. Effective communication ensures that the Christian values resonate</p>	

beyond the school walls. This impacts not just pupils but also their families and the wider community. The governing board has made significant funding decisions which reflect the vision and values of the school. However, the biblical roots of the vision are currently not fully recognised by the whole school community.

The school's curriculum reflects its Christian vision. Along with 'Together we can...' it is at the heart of the curriculum design. This ensures the focus and teaching of character development, community engagement, and spiritual growth is not lost. The school sets high expectations for all pupils, irrespective of their starting points. This reinforces their belief in the potential of every pupil. Family and community engagement play a crucial role in breaking down barriers and fostering a supportive environment. The school is committed to inclusive education, particularly for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The dedicated staff and collaboration with external agencies demonstrate a strong commitment to this. This reflects its Christian ethos of caring for and valuing every individual enabling all pupils to thrive in their learning. Collaboration with external partnerships ensure equal access to support. The school engages with local partners to offer well attended enrichment opportunities. These include activity clubs run by school staff during the holidays. This gives pupils access to diverse experiences. Driven by the Christian vision this helps pupils flourish and experience life fully.

Collective worship plays a pivotal role in nurturing the spiritual growth of both pupils and adults. This fosters a sense of community, inclusivity, and personal reflection. Through a well-rounded approach, the school ensures that worship is an enriching experience for all involved. Clergy, staff, and pupils, offer a range of perspectives and liturgical experiences. The variety of settings in which worship occurs further enriches the spiritual experience. Whether in church, the school halls, or classrooms, the worship leaders ensure the occasion is inclusive. This helps reinforce the idea that spirituality is not confined to specific locations. Worship planning is another strength of this school's approach. Underpinned by the Christian vision and the structure of the church calendar, leaders ensure that worship is relevant and purposeful. The thematic worship approach deepens participants' understanding of spiritual concepts. Worship encourages pupils to explore 'big questions' related to current events and global affairs. This cultivates a sense of awe and curiosity about the world and promotes critical thinking, and a deeper spiritual understanding. The Wellbeing & Distinctiveness Ambassadors and the Worship Warriors, empower pupils to actively participate in worship planning and leadership. This involvement not only enhances their spiritual development but also instils a sense of responsibility and leadership skills. Inclusive and invitational prayer is a key feature of worship. The use of prayer pebbles, encourages pupils to make prayer a personal and meaningful part of their spiritual journey. After each worship session, adults and pupils have time for reflection. Reflection journals, enable individuals to record their thoughts and spiritual insights. However, a consistent, shared understanding and language of spirituality is not yet fully embedded.

'Together we can' underpinned by the Christian vision is at the heart of this school's culture. The school fosters an environment where both pupils and adults are treated with care and respect. Contributing to nurturing and inclusive relationships, the vision emphasises the importance of loving and caring for every pupil. This approach reflects the Christian values of treating all individuals with love and compassion. As a result, when issues arise, staff work closely with parents, the inclusion team, and external agencies. They provide comprehensive support not only to the pupil but also to their wider family. Leaders place a strong emphasis on mental health and wellbeing. They offer dedicated sessions by local partners and commission a play therapist to help pupils manage their emotional needs. This demonstrates a proactive commitment to addressing the underlying emotional challenges that pupils may face.

Flexibility is another hallmark of the school's approach to support. They understand that every pupil is unique and may require different forms of assistance. To accommodate this, the governors

converted a house on the grounds into the Nurture Room and library. This enables pupils to receive tailored support in environments that best suit their needs. Effective communication is also a priority. The school cultivates an open and honest culture between pupils and adults. It fosters an atmosphere where pupils know they can turn to any staff member for support. This promotes a sense of trust and belonging within the school community. Demonstrated and modelled by staff, forgiveness and reconciliation are values actively encouraged within the school's ethos. The school community supports raising funds and donating to charities. Pupils are concerned about social injustice and the need for a greater balance in the world. However, pupils were not able to explain how they can act independently as courageous advocates and agents of change.

The school places a strong emphasis on staff development and wellbeing. Investing in training for all staff members, ensures that they are well equipped to provide the best possible support to pupils. The establishment of faculty teams demonstrates a commitment to addressing staff workload and wellbeing. Leaders recognise that a motivated and supported staff is essential for a positive learning environment.

The RE curriculum is purposeful and aligned with the school's Christian values. It is designed to acquaint pupils with major world religions and worldviews. As part of this, it develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a world religion. Through 'big questions', the curriculum encourages pupils to appreciate the role of religious beliefs in shaping behaviour and life. Learning and transparency is promoted through Knowledge Organisers provided to pupils and shared with parents, helping with parental engagement. Learning experiences, such as visits to local temples and mosques, enrich pupils' understanding of diverse religious practices. Overseen by a knowledgeable RE subject leader, the curriculum is effectively monitored to ensure development of skills. Governors and leaders use regular evaluations, book reviews, and pupil conferences to help identify areas for improvement. These findings are used to guide professional development and planning, enhancing the curriculum's quality.

The inspection findings indicate that Christ Church Church of England school is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	5 October 2023	URN	104893
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	452
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Miss Lynsey Gregory		
Chair	Mr David Brand		
Inspector	Rob Dean	No.	2129