

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Micklehurst All Saints Church of England Primary School

Address The Rowans, Mossley, OL5 9DR

Christian vision

'Building a firm foundation for living and learning based on Christian values.'

Our vision is to help our pupils to develop into well rounded individuals who embody the Fruits of the Spirit and carry with them the knowledge skills and attitudes which will make them lifelong learners and valuable future citizens. (Galatians 5: 22-23)

School strengths

- Leaders promote a clear understanding of the deeply Christian vision, which is lived out through well-known values, rooted in biblical teaching.
- Deep, thought provoking questions woven through the curriculum provide challenge and enable pupils to flourish academically. Effective partnerships enhance the curriculum, through well-planned visits and visitors.
- Worship is welcoming and engaging, enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually through reflection, which continues beyond collective worship.
- Behaviour is exemplary because pupils' live out the Christian vision in their daily lives, displaying love, gentleness, kindness and self-control. Leaders have created a culture where wellbeing and positive relationships are at the heart of the school.
- Strong leadership in religious education (RE) ensures that the subject has a high profile. Learning is relevant and diverse, and therefore highly effective in preparing pupils for life beyond school.

Areas for development

- Enable pupils to form links between their knowledge of people who have made a positive difference in the world and social justice. This is so they have a greater understanding of their potential impact as members of the local and global community.
- Establish a shared language to describe spirituality to enable pupils to develop knowledge about how they can grow spiritually.
- Ensure the clarity and consistency of language used in RE, so that it is fully inclusive across school. This is to clarify for pupils that there are many, varied beliefs and prepare them for life in a multicultural society.

Inspection findings

A sense that everyone belongs within a warm, loving family threads through every fibre of Micklehurst All Saints Church of England Primary School. School leaders are fiercely passionate in their drive to ensure that every child builds firm foundations for lifelong learning. The deeply Christian vision for the school, guides every decision so that people thrive. It is underpinned by, and lived out in, the Christian values of the fruit of the spirit. All share the aspiration that pupils will grow to embody the values of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Consequently, they are ready to face the world, continue their learning and live in harmony with others. Governors share a determination to ensure that pupils become independent learners, well-prepared to face the world. School leaders know that the vision leads to success for pupils because they actively and rigorously monitor and evaluate its impact. Leaders, including governors, have an accurate understanding of school strengths. Insightful actions based on findings from monitoring enhance the work of Micklehurst as a Church school. The biblically rooted vision drives decisions such as prioritising budget resources to support all children, especially the most vulnerable. Ambitious leaders accurately describe how they

'battle to find the funds' to provide sport and music, recognising their significant impact. The school knows its community well and provides the support families and pupils need. Pupils and parents' love for the school mirrors that of leaders and staff. The school cares diligently for everyone within it, and is determined to work for the wellbeing of the wider community.

Numerous, varied opportunities for spiritual development exist in school. Deep, thought provoking questions weave through the curriculum, shaped by the vision. Pupils are encouraged to reflect in all subjects, and at others times such as during and after collective worship. Their responses to questions are articulate and detailed. The whole school community values worship as a time to come together with the opportunity to sing joyfully and pray. Pupils enjoy visits from church worship leaders and readily recall the wealth of biblical stories they share. They particularly relish worship led by their peers in the ethos team who are active in its delivery and evaluation. The beautifully presented reflection class books promote school values, and demonstrate the depth of pupils' thinking and their spiritual growth. Through worship, and within the curriculum, leaders encourage a sense of awe and provide opportunities to wonder. Pupils accurately share how working in the forest school, and moments of stillness while encountering an owl, enrich their spirituality. However, pupils are not fully aware of how the many planned elements within the curriculum enable them to grow and flourish. This is because there is no shared way to describe spiritual development.

The curriculum provides every opportunity for pupils to become lifelong learners in line with the vision. Pupils are encouraged to be inquisitive. They say that they 'always have to question' information because often 'there is no wrong or right answer'. They relish the challenge this brings. Leaders support staff with resources and on-going professional development. The school provides effectively for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Pupils describe how they help each other, and understand and accept that peers sometimes need support with learning or behaviour. Intervention and support ensure that all pupils can access the full curriculum and learn well alongside their classmates. They flourish academically because of encouragement, support, and high expectations, which enable them to build firm foundations for living and learning.

Extra-curricular opportunities are highly valued by pupils and add considerably to their firm foundation of learning. Parents value links with the local secondary school that lead to pupils attending Olympic days, Spanish workshops and maths challenges. Such strong partnerships build confidence and aid transition when the time comes to leave Year 6. Pupils hold leadership roles that enable them to take on responsibility in school, and they are beginning to create change. Actions by digital leaders promote online safety while eco-councillors remove litter. School councillors lead work during Black History Month and teach others about racism. This work enables pupils to consider the actions of those in the past who fought for change. Although pupils learn about social action, they are not fully confident in recognising injustice, and how they can make a difference. The school is in the early stages of encouraging and equipping pupils to become agents of change. The Christian vision shapes a culture where pupils recognise a balance between their personal freedoms and their responsibility to love others. This is most evident in the exemplary behaviour, care and compassion pupils demonstrate for each other. Throughout school, rooted in the vision, there is a culture of kindness, thoughtfulness and love, modelled by staff and emulated by pupils. Pupils celebrate diversity, and recognise that the Christian values they embody are for everyone. All are treated fairly. Pupils and parents are clear that bullying is not tolerated and is swiftly dealt with. The school provides effective support for good mental health for adults and pupils. Sometimes this involves partnerships with outside agencies but most often support comes through the positive relationships leaders create in school. As a result, everyone thrives.

RE enables pupils to flourish due to a curriculum filled with rich, thought-provoking religious and philosophical questions. Coupled with drama and creative tasks, it ensures that pupils thoroughly enjoy RE. Big questions introduce each unit and capture pupils' interest, enabling them to connect with difficult concepts. Learning is well sequenced, with a good balance of different faiths and worldviews. Units such as 'What can be done to reduce racism- can religion help?' cement its relevance in today's world. Strong links with the diocese, including access to the 'RE leader hub', enhance the subject. In their careful evaluation of the curriculum, leaders accurately identify that learning through themes may hamper pupils' understanding of each distinct religion. Incisive action ensures that they now use an effective way to group facts for each faith on one hand. This aids pupils' memory recall. Pupils feel comfortable and included in RE, however an opportunity exists to ensure that language used is even more inclusive.

'We believe' is sometimes used to explain the beliefs of Christians. There is mention of 'other' faiths when talking about visits to the many places of worship that enrich RE. Regular monitoring by the RE leader and 'pupil inspectors' drives continuous improvement. The subject's high profile ensures leaders invest in professional development. The result is effective RE that contributes, as is the school's vision, to pupils becoming thoughtful, 'valuable future citizens'.

The inspection findings indicate that Micklehurst All Saints Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information

School	Micklehurst All Saints Church of England Primary School				
URN	106235	Pupils on roll	203	VA/VC/Academy	VC
Diocese	Manchester				
MAT/Federation	N/A				
Headteacher	Laura Trelfa				
Chair of governors	Graeme Jones				
Inspector	Melanie Barratt			No.	2104
Date of Inspection	14 September 2023				