



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

<b>Saint John's Church of England Primary School, Waterloo</b>	
Address	Denmark Street, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 9RG

### School vision

St John's Church of England Primary School has a Christian vision for education rooted in wisdom, hope, community and dignity. It is a community where all are welcome and nurtured in a spirit of Christian love, compassion and encouragement.

It is a place which enables everyone in the school community to develop and experience 'life in all its fullness' knowing they are unique and special in God's eyes.

The Christian vision strives for all to realise true potential through an excellent, broad education where Christian hope, aspiration and building resilience for the future are central to the learning experience.

### School strengths

- The Christian vision, deeply rooted in theology, empowers this highly effective Church school. It binds the community in a singularity of purpose that supports adults and pupils to flourish. Leaders at all levels ensure that the vision and associated values of wisdom, hope, community and dignity nurture the experiences of all.
- Honest and respectful relationships are a palpable strength of this friendly community where the example of Jesus is at its heart. This leads to a culture of openness and trust that recognises mistakes and is generous in forgiveness.
- Inspirational collective worship is exceptionally well planned, monitored and evaluated. Consequently, all experience daily worship that is rich, varied and encourages individuals in their personal spiritual growth.
- The manner in which the wellbeing and mental health of all is supported and nurtured is commendable. It embraces all including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or who are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged.
- Religious education (RE) provides pupils with a challenging and exciting curriculum. This enables them in their interest in, and knowledge and understanding of, a range of world faiths and worldviews.

### Areas for development

- Expand pupils' opportunities to be agents of change within the community. This is so that pupils have greater confidence to be independent agents of social change and the impact of the school's Christian vision is extended.
- Enhance opportunities of spiritual flourishing for all by offering additional spaces for stillness, reflection and worship.

### Inspection findings

The Christian vision, rooted in implementing God's plan for individuals, is the focus for all within St

John's. Shining through the life of the school, underpinning policies, decisions and practices, it transforms lives. All appreciate that enabling 'life in all its fullness' embraces care and nurture of others equally to pursuing personal enrichment and success. Staff value the special nature of St John's, the community it serves and its distinctively Christian approach to all matters. They join a community with Jesus at its heart and are supported to appreciate what it is to work in a Church school. Leaders work closely with Liverpool Diocese both seeking support and generously offering it to others. Including governors, leaders know the impact of the Christian vision because they monitor, evaluate and reflect upon their actions and those of their teams. There is a deep-seated recognition that only the very best is good enough for people who are all created in the image and likeness of God. This leads to exemplary standards.

Enabling pupils to enjoy 'life in all its fullness' promotes learning that is rich in experiences. It challenges learners to excel and, as a pupil expressed 'try lots of new things'. All are encouraged in their aspirations. Adults expertly devise creative, engaging, academic and spiritually nourishing experiences for pupils as a consequence of pertinent professional development. Conscious of the demands upon families, leaders relentlessly guarantee all pupils cultural and horizon expanding opportunities. Year 6 adventure days that promote new experiences, while developing self-esteem and confidence, exemplify this commitment. Spiritual enrichment, encouraged through the Christian ethos, permeates all learning and activities. Visits and visitors inspire pupils' imaginations leading to moments of wonderment that are deep and expansive. A pupil spoke of the 'magic' of watching the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra play. Another wondered about exploring the moon. Adults explain that by encouraging pupils in their spirituality, they nurture this within themselves. Parents recognise the care of pupils with SEND as providing for academic needs and emotional and social wellbeing. This enables pupils to thrive and participate in the extensive activities available to them. Learning meets needs and encourages pupils' curiosity and thirst for knowledge that builds their capacity for continued flourishing.

Inspirational worship is central to each day. Thoughtfully and carefully planned and led by governors, staff and pupils, it reflects the church and secular calendars. It brings the Christian vision and values to life. Adults and pupils are supported to lead worship with the ethos team proudly at the centre of creating imaginative worship. Comprehensive evaluation ensures worship meaningfully expresses the breadth of the Anglican traditions. Visits to churches for learning and prayer endorse this understanding. Powerful Advent and Easter services convey understanding of the life of Jesus. Equally, marking Remembrance Sunday and Harvest enriches pupils' appreciation of prayer and worship today. Opportunities for prayerfulness punctuate each day. Moments of quiet, spiritual reflection occur as all gather and wait to begin worship. Worship is an immersive experience. Pupils listen intently to the word of God, sing with joy and eagerly make relevant contributions and responses. Even the youngest pupils recognise worship as a special time. The use of candles, church colours and music encourages them in this. Meaningful class worship embraces current affairs with reflection, prayers and biblical examples a natural and important aspect. Worship invites all to engage in times of contemplation that inspire and nourish individual spirituality. Internal reflection spaces support this but the potential of the school environment to encourage spiritual flourishing are underdeveloped. The Eucharist is celebrated regularly and each year a small number of pupils receive their First Communion. This endorses the impact of the school's worship, nurture and care.

All entering the school, step into an atmosphere of welcome, calm and exceptional relationships. Everyone can flourish personally in a community where treating others with dignity and respect is strikingly normal. Pupils recognise encouragement as intrinsic to each school experience. This extends beyond formal learning to developing friendships. Behaviour is excellent and smiling infectious. Parents say relationships and nurture are key to their children's enjoyment of, and success within, this harmonious school. Strong communication builds and sustains the trust that

enables the school to move forward innovatively and safely. This protects the wellbeing of all. The aptly named 'Nest' space nurtures pupils, encouraging their empathy, feelings of safety and freedom to talk. It typifies the school's creative, proactive approach to promoting pupils' personal emotional, spiritual and mental wellbeing. Pertinent verses from scripture enable all to appreciate God's plans. For example, 'we will not be afraid' (Psalm 46:2) combined with a knitted 'worry worm' provides explicit and impactful support to those feeling vulnerable. Pupil leadership and partnership opportunities effectively enhance school bonds. Year 5 pupils happily support Year 1 reading, Year 6 pupils delight in their responsibilities as play leaders.

St John's is a community generous with time, care and action. Pupils are keenly aware of the needs of others because adults encourage their knowledge, curiosity and ethical responses. They apply a strong sense of justice and responsibility within the school family. They work collaboratively and demonstrate the power of the school's vision to change personal approaches and transform futures. Links within the local community encourage support of food and clothing banks. Litter picking and planting bulbs in the neighbourhood signal pride in the community and respond to learning about the environment and stewardship of God's creation. Increasingly, pupils react to the seeds of social action sown by the school. Consequently, they are beginning to consider social advocacy beyond their locality although this is at an early stage. Collaborating with The Ann Frank Trust encourages pupils in their appreciation of the Holocaust. It enhances their awareness and ability to identify and respond to discrimination, stereotyping, misogyny and homophobia. In all of this they apply the school's principles of compassion and Christian love.

Leaders place RE at the heart of learning, ensuring teachers are well supported so that pupils are well taught and challenged by their lessons. Well sequenced lessons lead to pupils understanding the journey of their learning and revisiting topics. While younger pupils investigate Mary Jones and The Bible Society, older pupils consider the significance of Tyndale printing Bibles in English. Pupils are enthusiastic and engaged asking pertinent questions because teachers deftly encourage their curiosity. Religious vocabulary is used accurately when giving complex answers. Learners appreciate the diversity of beliefs and practices in a range of world faiths and worldviews including recognising Christianity as a global world religion. Visiting Muslim, Jewish and Christian places of worship enriches learning encouraging these kind and informed pupils in their respectful understanding of differences between peoples. Themed days and exciting activities such as building a Sukkah make learning memorable adding to the joy and depth of pupils' experiences. Pupils make excellent progress in RE irrespective of their starting points. They respond to the high expectations of teachers who make learning irresistible. Mistakes are avenues to better learning, improvement and success. Dedicated teachers provide timely feedback upon pupils' work and clearly encourage them to the successful outcomes they eagerly pursue.

The inspection findings indicate that St John's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	28 September 2023	URN	104920
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	197
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Cheryl McManus		
Chair	Jean Forward		
Inspector	Fiona Ashton	No.	860

