

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bishop David Sheppard Church of England Primary School	
Address	Devonshire Road, Southport, PR9 7BZ
School vision	
<p>Following Jesus, together we succeed.</p> <p>Our school community members are made in the image of God and we embrace their uniqueness. We have high expectations for our children to fulfil the promise of enjoying 'life in all its fullness' (John 10: 10) through experiencing high quality social, moral, physical and spiritual education. We are committed to providing children with enriching opportunities to prepare them for the next stage of their education and life. All children are supported to overcome potential barriers so that they flourish and succeed. Together, we work to inspire our children to be the best they can be. We aim to create resilient individuals who can contribute to their communities and take their place in the world as global citizens.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is a sensitive and aspirational response to the needs of pupils and the wider community. It reflects a powerful sense of moral purpose and significant commitment from leaders. The impact of the vision is evident across the work of the school, as pupils and adults thrive and grow. • The school's unique curriculum has been shaped by the aims of the Christian vision. The clear intention is to build resilience and overcome barriers. This is evident in the successful focus on core skills and the development of character following Jesus' example. • Leaders maintain a high level of commitment to the wellbeing of pupils and adults. Based on good, honest relationships, the needs of individuals are identified early and addressed in flexible and creative ways. • The worshipping life of the school and strong focus on spirituality create an inspiring, nurturing culture. This impacts deeply on the lives of pupils and adults. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the range of opportunities for all pupils to engage in meaningful social action. This is to help them develop a sense of themselves as agents of change. • Expand the scope of teaching in religious education (RE) to include philosophical enquiry and encourage personal response. This is to enable pupils to develop their own convictions and beliefs in a safe and supportive environment. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision to work together following the example of Jesus, enables pupils and adults to flourish. It addresses the needs of pupils by offering hope and support towards a better future. A strong sense of moral purpose motivates those leading and governing the school. They are committed to overcoming the barriers preventing pupils from learning and thriving.</p>	

This is evident in all aspects of school life. Resources are allocated to staffing and projects that directly address pupils' needs. The emphasis on developing core knowledge and skills for learning, particularly early reading, enables pupils' confidence and resilience. This builds a strong foundation for learning across the curriculum, with pupils motivated by self-belief. Staff value the ways in which the vision includes everyone. They are supported with care by leaders and governors, which enables them to model positive relationships. The school is a very important hub for the community. The local food bank, run by volunteers from the parish, is on the school site. In this provision families are able to see the Christian vision in action. The relationship between the school and the local church is very strong. A wide range of shared activities are of mutual benefit as they seek to serve the community. These include a lunch club for the elderly at which pupils provide entertainment.

The curriculum is designed so that pupils experience success and express themselves. It has been shaped by the Christian vision which aims to overcome barriers to learning and acknowledges each pupil's uniqueness. Leaders commit time and resources to support development of the key skills necessary for pupils to access the whole curriculum. Those with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) are taught and supported alongside their peers to build self-esteem. Phonics, early literacy and reading for pleasure are key priorities that impact deeply on achievement. The inspirational 'book' culture is enriched by the provision of a well-stocked library with staff dedicated to its management. Pupils acquire language skills enabling them to explain thoughts and feelings, contributing to their wellbeing. They are introduced to poetry in different forms which nurtures aspects of spiritual development. There is a consistent school wide approach to spirituality. This encourages reflection on the world from four perspectives: God, self, others and beauty. As a result, pupils develop of a sense of self in relation to the world and beyond.

The varied worship life is enjoyed by all. A well-structured programme provides opportunity for deep reflection and nurtures spiritual development. The regular exploration of works of art supports this through discussion of pupils' responses. The focus shifts between the school's Christian values, important questions of life, Church festivals and current events. This offers scope for all pupils and adults to be moved, challenged and encouraged in their individual life journeys. They are invited to interact, which means that worship helps to strengthen relationships and build the sense of community. Pupils contribute by setting up the altar table with a Bible, candle and cross. The ethos group ensure that pupils' ideas form part of the planning process. Each classroom has an interactive table display inspiring pupils to respond to themes and issues raised in worship. These are updated regularly and used often. Prayers written by pupils at these, or other shared displays, are often used in whole school gatherings. All members of the school community feel included and comfortable in worship. The calm, purposeful start to each day brings the community together and impacts positively on teaching and learning.

One key message of the Christian vision is that success comes from working together. As a result, all are included in the community and the wellbeing of each individual is supported with compassion and understanding. Leaders, including the governing body, provide time and resources with flexibility to ensure staff are valued and cared for. This enables staff to grow professionally and build careers, nurtured by a culture that encourages seeing challenges as opportunities. Parents are able to trust that needs will be identified early and addressed effectively. Pupils feel safe and are encouraged to be themselves through questioning and curiosity. They are well prepared for the next stage of education. They start high school with confidence and a foundation of strong values on which to build their lives. 'Following Jesus' has meaning and significance for all pupils, regardless of their background or beliefs.

A significant focus of the Christian vision is on removing the barriers to success. Before they are able to contribute to communities, many need to develop self-belief and take responsibility for their own learning. This is achieved through the emphasis on early reading skills and the creative,

inspirational curriculum. Pupils build on this confidence and begin to look outward to the needs of others. The school regularly raises money for a range of charities. The pupil-led ethos group contributes to a long-term project to improve the local environment and keeps the whole school informed. However, there is not a structured approach to providing all pupils with opportunities to challenge injustice and make a difference.

RE is given priority as an academic subject. It is highly valued and enjoyed by pupils and teaching staff. Leaders regularly attend local diocesan training and are able to support colleagues with confidence. This training also ensures that the curriculum is effective and meets statutory expectations. It is regularly reviewed and adapted to meet the needs of pupils. The syllabus provides a range of quality resources to enhance teachers' knowledge and understanding. Good use is made of these, ensuring accuracy in teaching. Pupils are regularly challenged to explore concepts in more depth. The well-sequenced units of work develop pupils' learning over time, as they return to themes and ideas in different year groups. The main focus is on Christianity with links exploring belief and practice in a range of faiths and worldviews. This learning is supplemented with work completed in 'World Faith Week'. Pupils across the school benefit from this regular opportunity to research, share and celebrate diversity that complements the RE provision.

Teachers are confident in their delivery of the RE curriculum. They can rely on the comprehensive resources in the syllabus and the wealth of knowledge available from supportive colleagues. Pupils develop knowledge and understanding in lessons because clear objectives are set for learning. As a result, they make good progress from their starting points. This is evident in the work recorded in books. Leaders monitor the quality and impact of teaching well, benefiting from joint moderation sessions with their local church schools. However, there is not sufficient, structured opportunity for philosophical enquiry to enable them to develop their own convictions and beliefs.

This is a very effective Church school offering care and nurture to all. In this welcoming community, humbly following the example of Jesus, everyone is encouraged to flourish and succeed.

The inspection findings indicate that Bishop David Sheppard Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	23 November 2023	URN	104942
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	200
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Siobhan Bayliff		
Chair	Michael Molyneux		
Inspector	Peter Barfoot	No.	2216