

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

St John's Church of England Primary School, Pemberton	
Address	Church Street, Pemberton, Wigan, WN5 0DT
School vision	
<p>At St. John's we trust in God and depend on him to make the right choices. We show perseverance and achieve great things; accepting others, being kind, truthful and honest. We seek forgiveness just as God forgives us.</p> <p>'Love one another as God loves us.; - John 13: 34</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian vision clearly underpins the efforts of the school's leaders. 'Love one another as God loves us', is at the heart of strategic actions focused on the flourishing of all.</li> <li>• Inspired by the school's Christian vision, leaders promote a school culture of inclusion and equity. Pupils and adults are valued for who they are.</li> <li>• As a result of the pupils' understanding of the vision, they treat one another with respect and kindness. This enhances their good mental health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Worship provides calm and reflective opportunities for personal spirituality. The school's distinctive Christian vision and shared values impact greatly on the lives of pupils and adults.</li> <li>• The religious education (RE) curriculum is well planned. It meets the needs of all pupils and supports teachers so they teach well. As a result, pupils enjoy their learning.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed a shared understanding of spirituality across the curriculum. This is to further enable the flourishing of adults and pupils.</li> <li>• Develop assessment practice in RE so that this better informs teaching and learning. This is to help pupils retain accurate knowledge and understanding of all religions and worldviews over time.</li> <li>• Develop pupils' understanding that they are able to be agents of change and can make a positive impact both locally and worldwide.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>St John's Christian vision serves as a guiding force, encouraging individuals to make daily choices aligned with the school's five Christian values. These values of perseverance, love, friendship, trust and forgiveness foster an environment where pupils and adults alike can flourish. With love at the heart of the Christian vision it underpins all activities and decisions, providing a moral compass for the school community. Leaders actively demonstrate the Christian vision through their open communication, such as the open-door policy and morning welcomes. This contributes to the calm and supportive atmosphere that is also recognised by visitors and parents. The emphasis on wellbeing, both for staff and pupils, underscores decisions led by the school's vision.</p>	

The curriculum of the school is deeply rooted in its Christian vision. From Early Years Foundation Stage, the curriculum is interwoven with a wellbeing approach. The school's commitment to nurturing pupils is reflected in its pastoral care. The addition of a school councillor exemplifies the school's commitment to its Christian vision. The inclusivity of extra-curricular activities, such as music theatre, football, and netball, highlights the school's Christian values of perseverance and friendship. Teachers model and demonstrate these values beyond the classroom. Pupils talk about them helping to become a better person. The school's commitment to ensuring pupils feel safe, loved, and part of a family aligns with the Christian vision. There is a real emphasis on supporting families and having open communication. As a result, this creates a nurturing environment even in times of severe need. Working with outside agencies to support families shows the Christian vision and leaders' investment in the community. This includes initiatives such as recycling school uniforms and the running of programmes like 'Little Lambs'. These show a commitment to supporting parents and the broader community. Inspired by the Christian vision, the focus of the curriculum is not only academic knowledge, it is also interwoven with Christian values. This ensures that pupils not only learn about these values but also practise them in various aspects of their educational journey.

Collective worship plays a vital role in fostering spiritual flourishing among pupils and adults. The format and content of worship contribute to this. Pupils look forward to the weekly visits to St John's church. Worship delivered by a variety of adults contributes to a rich spiritual tapestry for pupils and adults to experience. The Christian idea of the Trinity forms the start of all collective worship. This consistency in format contributes to a sense of continuity and familiarity. This creates a calm and peaceful atmosphere, enhancing pupils' personal spiritual experience which is both inclusive and invitational. Through the reading and discussion of Bible stories, worship leaders use school values to guide behaviour and relationships with others. This engagement with the Bible serves as a foundation for moral and spiritual growth. A variety of resources are used to ask searching questions. This enhances the ability of pupils and adults to recognise and apply the Christian values in the world around them. As a result, pupils' understanding of spirituality is increased by relating it to current issues and showcasing positive role models. However, there is no shared understanding of spirituality and associated language. This limits the wider opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum. Continuing professional development from the diocese demonstrates a commitment to ongoing training and learning. This ensures that staff are well equipped to deliver meaningful collective worship experiences that contribute to spiritual flourishing. Parents are regularly invited to class workshops and special occasions in St John's church. This includes events such as Mothering Sunday and the Nativity. These help foster a sense of community and enable families to be part of the spiritual development of their children.

The school's Christian vision promotes a calm and respectful ethos. 'Love one another as God loves us' sets the tone for interactions within the school community. This ethos fosters an inclusive culture, emphasising the importance of treating each other with kindness and respect. Through the use of wellbeing champions and a school councillor, leaders facilitate support for both pupils and adults. This includes time and tools to problem-solve, not only in academic matters but also in personal life. The impact of this is visible in the relationships in school. Parents, pupils and staff describe the school as one family. Pupils enjoy using the outdoor spaces like 'God's Garden'. It provides a reflective environment, connecting wellbeing with spirituality and nature. Mental health week celebrations and regular discussions in worship contribute to a broad approach to wellbeing education. Modelling wellbeing also happens in worship. Pupils look forward to seeing who receives the weekly Christian vision and values awards.

The school's Christian vision fosters a culture of justice and responsibility. Curriculum resources are skilfully used to provide opportunities for discussions around current events and issues. This

promotes an understanding of justice and responsibility. Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders use good role models within the school. They reinforce the importance of positive behaviour and responsible actions. The consistent use of the behaviour policy throughout the school ensures fairness and accountability. With the Christian vision at the heart of the policy it serves as a guideline for responsible conduct. The impact of this is a just and orderly environment. However, beyond the school, pupils are less aware of how they can act independently to challenge injustice and be agents of change. Leaders work well with pupil voice groups. Providing platforms such as school council, team captains, and worship groups allows pupils to voice their opinions. This helps them to participate in decision making processes and develop the concept of responsibility.

RE is well supported and is viewed as an important curriculum subject. It also meets the requirements for RE in a Church of England school. The school uses the syllabus provided by the diocese and professional development is also sourced through them. This ensures staff are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to teach RE effectively. Teachers encourage pupils to explore big questions. They talk confidently about things which intrigue and challenge them. Individual and class books reflect the opportunities pupils have to develop their knowledge of world religions and worldviews. Teaching is effective and engaging, with a variety of activities being used to stimulate pupils' thoughts and imagination. As a result, pupils look forward to their lessons.

In RE pupils progress well from a low starting point. They write and talk about their learning in lessons with an understanding that develops as they get older. They enthusiastically answer big questions that the curriculum asks of them. Pupils' work shows the progress that they make from lesson to lesson. However, it is sometimes difficult for them to remember some of the details of what they learned longer ago.

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	29 November 2023	URN	106451
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	202
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Mark Speakman		
Chair	David Parfitt		
Inspector	Rob Dean	No.	2129