



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

| St Oswald's Church of England VA Primary School, Mollington   |  |
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| Address   | Grove Road, Mollington, Chester, CH1 6LG |
| School vision   |  |
| <p>'Love Your Neighbour as yourself' (Luke 10:27)</p> <p>In God's family there are no outsiders as we nurture one another accepting all forms of diversity, whilst fostering a love of learning. Our Christian values, as expressed in the parable of the Good Samaritan, enable us to flourish together as we love selflessly, have eternal hope and walk in faith.</p>  |  |
| School strengths  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vision 'love your neighbour' forms the very culture of St Oswald's, ensuring it is led with love. Consequently, pupils, staff, parents and governors thrive and are proud to belong to this school.</li> <li>• Collective worship has a profound and exemplary impact on all. Pupils and adults value the opportunity to come together, reflect deeply, experience stillness and sing meaningful worship songs.</li> <li>• Spiritual development is central to the life of the school, both within and beyond the curriculum. This enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is given high importance within the curriculum. As a result of strong leadership, challenge, creative teaching and skilful monitoring, all pupils make good progress. Pupils have an impressive knowledge and understanding of this subject.</li> <li>• The vision is clearly lived out in the relationships within the school and through partnerships with other schools. This is appreciated by adults and pupils who acknowledge the benefit of relational support and the positive impact this has had on their wellbeing.</li> </ul> |  |
| Areas for development   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the breadth of the impact of the vision so it impacts neighbours beyond the local community.</li> <li>• Embed opportunities for pupils to challenge injustice throughout the curriculum. This is to enhance the way they can be active agents of change, speaking on behalf of others.</li> </ul>   |  |
| Inspection findings   |  |
| <p>The Christian vision at St Oswald's to 'Love your neighbour' is deeply understood and embedded. Decisions made by leaders stem from this vision. This results in all adults and pupils having a strong sense of belonging and a flourishing school community. Staff describe St Oswald's as being a warm and caring family. Pupils and staff feel valued and supported by their leaders and this results in good wellbeing. Staff morale is high.</p> <p>Leaders and governors have a shared and accurate understanding of how the vision is underpinned by the teachings of Jesus. Staff, parents and governors unanimously speak of how the Christian</p>  |  |

vision at St Oswald's is felt in the nurturing school atmosphere. Everyone is made to feel welcomed into school. Values are lived and demonstrated through loving relationships to each other. This school is proud to be a Church school. The vision and Christian values are displayed with a spirit of excellence throughout the learning environment.

Positive relationships, flowing from Jesus' instruction to 'love your neighbour' are key to the success of the school. Staff at all levels benefit from well-planned in-house and external training. This results in staff being confident in their roles and supporting other adults and pupils to flourish. Relationships between staff and pupils are exemplary. This results in an exceptionally safe and loving environment in which difficulties can be shared, knowing that help will be offered. As a result, pupils feel cared for and supported.

The school's restorative approach to behaviour management is built on Christian values and fosters a culture of forgiveness and reconciliation. It helps promote loving and mutually respectful relationships between pupils. The 'No outsiders' pledge is underpinned by 'We value all God's children'. It is displayed proudly in school and contributes to an inclusive culture where mutual respect is fostered. Pupils who are new to the school, are nurtured and cherished by their classmates. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or who speak English as an additional language, are given the assistance they need to make progress and achieve well.

Leaders cultivate key partnerships to further enhance the flourishing of adults and pupils. Strong collaboration with the diocese enables welcome support and challenge to further develop achievements within the RE curriculum. The impact of this work is seen in staff's impressive subject knowledge and pupils' religious literacy. The impact of leader's actions are felt beyond the school with the headteacher delivering training and support within other schools. This enables others to thrive. The school has recently joined Chester Diocesan Academy Trust and already benefits from working closely with the trust and other schools, sharing, and receiving expertise. St Oswald's works highly effectively and collaboratively with local small Church schools. Their joint work is inspiring and enhances the schools' ethos teams and collective worship experience.

Collective worship is inspirational and valued by all. Pupils plan, lead and engage with worship, further enabling the whole school to be spiritually uplifted. Collective worship creates a golden thread that runs through the whole school experience. It extends beyond school and into family life. Parents appreciate how prayers used at school have been adopted at home, further cementing the bond that exists within this community. Collective worship is interactive and invites pupils and adults to reflect deeply and respond accordingly. The school has a long standing relationship with Chester School Christian Work organisation. Through this partnership, creative prayer spaces are implemented, which deepen the opportunities to reflect for pupils and adults.

Spiritual development is an intrinsic part of the school. Opportunities to experience spirituality permeate the environment and curriculum. There is a strong shared understanding between pupils and adults about how spirituality enhances lives. Adults skilfully enable deep discussions and reflection to take place. The reflection garden makes space for stillness and contemplation in the busyness of life. The forest school provision is an example of excellent practice and supports the children's spirituality through reflection, mindfulness, awe and wonder. The 10 commandments of forest school support pupils to be responsible custodians of God's creation and the parents appreciate this being instilled in their children. The shared understanding of spirituality is deeply embedded. Adults are frequently impressed by the pupils' responses to big questions, finding themselves inspired by the pupils' insightful responses. This also develops adults own spirituality.

The vision for 'love your neighbour' shapes the design of the curriculum. The pupils benefit from rich

and carefully chosen enrichment experiences which broaden their understanding. The curriculum provides effective support for pupils' development as advocates of social justice. This is particularly with regards to the local environment for example by being responsible citizens by litter picking. The extent to which the curriculum offers opportunities for pupils' to be agents of change on a wider, or more global, scale is limited. The impact of this means that pupils have a narrowed view of 'loving their neighbour.'

Leaders place RE at the core of the curriculum, teachers are knowledgeable so that pupils receive good teaching and are challenged by their lessons. Well-sequenced lessons lead to pupils understanding the journey of their learning and revisiting topics. Pupils ask pertinent questions because teachers expertly encourage their curiosity. This leads to pupils extending their knowledge and understanding. Religious vocabulary is used accurately when giving complex answers. Learners appreciate the diversity of beliefs and practices in a range of world faiths. This supports children to 'love their neighbour' and it encourages children to celebrate differences. They recognise Christianity as a global world religion. Themed days and exciting activities such as 'vision day' and 'fruits of the spirit day' bring joy and depth to pupils' learning experiences. Visiting Muslim, Jewish and Christian places of worship enriches learning, encouraging pupils in their respectful understanding of differences between people. The relevance of the curriculum combined with skilful teaching, ensure that pupils make rapid and sustained progress in RE. Pupils respond to the high expectations of teachers who make learning memorable.

Ambitious leaders ensure that all at St Oswald's are provided with the support and challenge they need to flourish. It is a school that the community is rightly proud of, and other schools benefit from its inspirational practice.

The inspection findings indicate that St Oswald's Church of England VA Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

| Information     |                  |                |        |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------|
| Inspection date | 16 November 2023 | URN            | 149628 |
| VC/VA/Academy   | Academy          | Pupils on roll | 124    |
| Diocese         | Chester          |                |        |
| MAT/Federation  | CDAT             |                |        |
| Headteacher     | Dave Wallace     |                |        |
| Chair           | Marianne Sunter  |                |        |
| Inspector       | Sara Lawrenson   | No.            | 2209   |