



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Ormskirk Lathom Park Church of England Primary School	
Address	Hall Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, L40 5UG

School vision

Striving to uphold our Christian vision of kindness and love we:
Value and respect every member of our community as a unique child of God; nurture, support and challenge all members of our community to reach their full potential. Underpin our inclusive curriculum with our values of kindness, perseverance and trust, providing opportunity for each individual to grow and flourish.
‘Let love and kindness be the motivation behind all that you do.’ - Corinthians 1, 16:14

School strengths

- Born from Corinthians 1, 16:14, the embedded Christian vision inspires all. Leaders use it to guide their thinking and to review the impact of their decisions. This enables pupils and adults to flourish.
- Relationships are highly supportive and stem from the Christian vision. As a result, pupils thrive in their learning, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- The curriculum, including the extra-curricular activities, is inspired by the Christian vision and makes the most of the school's location. It is designed for pupils to flourish on their own learning journey. As a result, pupils enjoy their learning and are well supported to succeed.
- Through the vision, leaders have created a strong emphasis on justice and responsibility. Pupils are effectively learning to understand about their individual rights and their role as responsible citizens within society.
- Collective worship is valued by all. Promotion of the school's vision and values has further developed individual spiritual growth and a strong sense of community.

Areas for development

- Embed the shared language of spirituality across the curriculum so that pupils are increasingly confident in expressing their thoughts as they develop spiritually.
- Further increase and embed opportunities for pupils to develop a deep understanding of a range of world religions and worldviews in religious education (RE).

Inspection findings

The school's Christian vision at Lathom Park plays a crucial role in enabling individuals to flourish in various aspects of their lives. In this small, rural school, leaders and staff clearly understand and live the vision, creating a close-knit family feeling. There is a purposefulness that come from the vision. This leads to routines and activities that are driven by the core Christian values of love and kindness. As a result, pupils and adults are constantly given opportunities to develop and flourish. These values are taught throughout the curriculum, in addition to being explored during worship. Leaders value and acknowledge pupils' positive contributions. Certificates and rewards for school etiquette



create positive reinforcement, fostering a sense of self-worth and accomplishment among pupils.

The school's Christian vision is interwoven into the curriculum. The Christian values serve as a guide for both pupils and staff, fostering a sense of community and inclusivity. This includes the use of a 'buddy system' for children new to the school and self-esteem activities to help pupils to socialise. The high profile of the Christian values paves the way for the creation and exploration of spiritual development within the curriculum. The school's definition and shared language of spiritual development includes awe, wonder, self-reflection and positive wellbeing. This process is in its early stages of introduction and so the impact of this is difficult to gauge. However, while rich, spontaneous curriculum opportunities for spirituality are evident, a lack of planning limits the depth of pupils' understanding. Staff foster a sense of belonging and self-confidence, encouraging pupils to work hard and achieve their goals. Adaptations and interventions for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils, ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all pupils. Enrichment and extra-curricular activities, including afterschool clubs, contribute to providing a well-rounded education. The surrounding outdoor environment is frequently well used. Pupils talk about taking part in activities using tools and natural materials such as den building. Connecting pupils with the environment in this way, contributes to their spiritual development. As a result, pupils are happy and confident learners.

Collective worship plays a crucial role in fostering spiritual development among pupils and adults. The alignment of collective worship with the Christian calendar provides a structured framework for spiritual exploration. Moments of stillness, prayer, reflection, and togetherness are integrated into worship. Through resources such as 'Picture News', collective worship nurtures empathy and sense of celebration or sorrow for global events. These also give pupils time to deepen their understanding of faith as a source of strength during challenging times. Collective worship is guided by the Christian vision to be inclusive. Worship leaders have a very approachable style inviting all present to take part. This enables adults and pupils to ask questions and share thoughts. Holding regular worship in the local Anglican chapel strengthens ties between the school and its community. Parents welcome these occasions and support the school to enable them to happen. Even though in vacancy, strong partnerships remain with the chapel and parish. This includes the Anglican chapel continuing to donate Bibles for all pupils new to Key Stage 2.

Inspired by the Christian vision, the school has frequent engagement with the local community. Visits to a 'keeping warm café', run by a local church, and interactions with residents at a local care home, demonstrate a broader commitment to social development. For pupils these experiences reinforce the school's vision, foster connections, create appropriate relationships and contribute to their wellbeing.

The school community is characterised by a family ethos driven by the Christian vision. Parents commend the positive behaviour, respect, and inclusive atmosphere within the school. Pupils exhibit love and kindness in many ways. Initiatives like the buddy system and caring for school animals enables pupils to live the Christian values. Pupil leadership roles in activities such as choir and school ambassadors empower them to develop a sense of responsibility and ownership. This culture contributes to their personal development and individual spiritual growth. Staff contributions are valued. Diverse opinions are sought and respected, creating a sense of belonging. The school's commitment to the support of mental health is evident by having a school therapy dog, trained mental health leads and regular wellbeing training for all staff. Governors value wellbeing and demonstrate this by enabling a play therapist to be regularly accessed by pupils and families.

Inspired by the school's Christian vision and values, staff cultivate a culture of fairness and responsibility among its pupils. When values are not met, they are shown how to take responsibility, reflect on their behaviour, and consider how to make amends. Staff encourage pupils to reflect on

their actions and make positive changes. Pupils and adults actively engage in projects that help support the local community. They also raise funds for charities. Pupils contribute to the community by participating in the national 'Big Help Out' and interacting with the local nursing home. These activities foster a sense of connection, responsibility, and love for the community. The school promotes responsible action through various pupil-led initiatives. Pupils take on roles like eco-warriors and engage in activities such as litter picking, showcasing a commitment to environmental responsibility. This reflects an understanding of the responsibility to care for the environment and make it safe for both humans and animals. Pupils participate in votes throughout the year, learning about democracy and the responsibilities that come with being part of a democratic process. The impact of this is that pupils understand about their individual rights and their role as responsible citizens within society.

The RE curriculum has recently been successfully reorganised to have a clearer sequence of progression. Within it, there are opportunities for encouraging deep thinking and discussions of big questions to help pupils develop their own beliefs. As a result, pupils are eager to question and challenge. As part of the new curriculum, the school now makes sensible use of the local syllabus. This enables pupils to learn about world religions through focus weeks. However, pupils' knowledge and understanding of world religions and worldviews is limited. Pupils demonstrate a good understanding of Christianity and the Bible, confidently discussing their thoughts, feelings, and the teachings of the texts. Pupils find the curriculum accessible and engaging. Leaders make the most of professional development provided by the diocese to increase the confidence of those teaching RE. As a result of all this, teachers create an environment in which pupils speak positively about their learning and enjoy sharing their work.

The inspection findings indicate that the Ormskirk Lathom Park Church of England school is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	7 December 2023	URN	119371
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	66
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Carol Wood		
Chair	Lisa Randall		
Inspector	Rob Dean	No.	2129