

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) DRAFT

Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School, Skelmersdale	
Address	Birkbrig, Skelmersdale, WN8 9BN
School vision	
<p>'Let your light shine before others so they may see your good deeds.' Matthew 5:16. Learning together, growing in faith.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The foundation for relationships at Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School stems from the Christian vision and values of the school. As a result, pupils and families are known and cared for. • Collective worship supports pupils, staff and parents to reflect deeply and consider how to apply Christian teachings in their lives. • Religious education (RE) is given high importance within the curriculum and pupils have an impressive knowledge and associated vocabulary of Christianity. • The school provides a beacon of hope in the community. It offers practical help and lives out love in action to those who need it the most. This results in pupils and families being able to flourish. • The school and church have a close working partnership which supports pupils' and staff's spiritual development. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clearly define spirituality and ensure there are opportunities within the curriculum to develop spiritually. • Refine the assessment of RE so that it identifies gaps in learning. Therefore, enabling the teaching process to maximise progress for all groups of learners. • RE lead to ensure the teaching and learning sequence leads to secure knowledge and understanding of world faiths. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Leaders successfully drive the school vision which is designed to support every child to overcome any barrier so that they can thrive. The vision inspires staff to have high expectations for each pupil. To symbolise unlocking potential and enabling pupils to 'shine', staff wear a key on their lanyards. There is a palpable sense of a happy family community at Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School, which enables all to flourish. Members of the diverse community are welcomed and included fully in the life of the school.</p> <p>The school has been through significant change in recent times. The school has recently made the</p>	

decision to formally join Liverpool Diocese Schools Trust (LDST). The staff appreciate the leadership guidance given prior to the transition to LDST. Staff feel cared for and explain this support as having 'arms' of their new Trust wrapping around them. They also speak about how the vision has been a 'guiding light' and has 'given a focus in challenging times'. Through their actions, staff live out the Christian vision as witnesses of Jesus' inclusive nature to love everyone. The vision and associated values are prominently displayed throughout the school environment. Beautiful artwork with scriptures crafted by a grandparent of the school hangs proudly in the school halls. This contributes to the Christian distinctiveness of the school and gives pupil a visual representation of the school's values.

Leaders have recently taken the decision to change the timetable so that each day begins with collective worship. This has strengthened the sense of belonging to a school family. Worship is planned to reflect the school's Christian ethos and led by Bible stories. Monitoring led by the worship leader identifies that pupils know the school's core Christian values. It has also highlighted that pupils are less familiar with ones not directly linked to the school. Worship planning has been adapted to address this and 'Roots and Fruits' supports leaders to focus on a wider range Christian values. Pupils are regularly engaged in leading worship based on current events and significant individuals. This inspires them to put Christian values into practice in their daily lives. An example of this is pupils being a buddy to a pupil new to the country. They put kindness into practice by showing their new friend around school and making sure they have a play companion during break and lunchtimes. Collective worship is inclusive for all. The youngest pupils, (who are pre-readers), bring instruments to join in the the praise and worship. Pupils also input into evaluating the impact of worship. Big questions and 'set a go forth' challenges enable pupils to continue reflecting beyond collective worship. For example, pupils are motivated to write prayers and poems focused on Christian values.

Moments for spirituality feature within collective worship. For example, through moments of stillness and reflection. Quiet spaces within classrooms are also utilised by pupils. The school is working with other leaders within the Trust to agree a collective definition of spirituality. This will support leaders to monitor the impact of spiritual development. There are limited opportunities for spirituality within the wider curriculum.

A strong partnership with the parish church enriches school life. Clergy lead invitational and reflective weekly worship. Clergy also give pupils and staff the opportunity to ask deep questions based on scripture and the Christian faith. This nurtures a sense of spirituality and curiosity. Staff appreciate the pastoral support and wisdom this partnership provides.

People are treated with dignity and respect at Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School. Pupils rightly attribute this to the Christian vision and values. Staff appreciate new strategies for good mental health. For example, leaders have considered the timings of meetings. Leaders recognise that consideration for wellbeing contributes to the emotional flourishing of people. Provision for pupil wellbeing is highly effective and ensures that pupils feel school is a safe space. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well nurtured because of dedicated and expertly trained staff. Staff know families well and a culture of trust is fostered as a result of the excellent pastoral support given.

Recent curriculum developments create opportunities for pupils to learn about renowned advocates of social change. Pupils understand this enables them to live out the vision so that their 'good deeds' will help others to 'shine'. Enterprise week gives pupils opportunities to make items to sell and use the profits to support a variety of charities. The charities chosen often have personal significance, which makes the activity more meaningful for the pupils. Through these opportunities, pupils recognise that they can be agents for social change. Additionally, they take practical action, for

example, litter picking within the locality. The Trust has adopted a school in Uganda as their collective focus for fundraising. Consequently, pupils are learning to show respect and concern for others in difficult circumstances.

Pupils are encouraged to take leadership roles within school. They understand that 'letting your light shine' means taking responsibility for the world around them. They speak enthusiastically of their roles as ethos leaders, and school councillors. Pupils on the eco team work with staff to care for God's creation, for example, clearing leaves to help hedgehogs that have found their way onto school grounds.

RE is well led as evidenced by the quality of teaching and learning. The RE lead regularly monitors books. She also with other leads in the Trust to quality assure the standards in books. RE complies with statutory and Church school requirements. Regular staff training from leaders has ensured that there are opportunities to continue to build on knowledge and promote spirituality in RE. A positive partnership with the diocese ensures training is relevant and pertinent to school needs. The school's RE curriculum is effective and enables children to understand Christianity as a multicultural world faith. Leaders ensure it has a high priority and profile. The enthusiastic RE leader shares good practice and leads professional development, increasing teachers' confidence and expertise. This means the quality of teaching in RE is effective and has a positive impact on pupils' learning. The curriculum is well sequenced and progressive. Pupils make progress from their individual starting points. They have impressive mastery of Christian concepts and its associated vocabulary. However, pupils are not able to demonstrate the same mastery of world faiths. Leaders have developed an approach to assessment. However, insufficient focus is placed on identifying and filling gaps in knowledge to enable pupils to improve.

Governors are highly inclusive, community driven and passionate about the schools vision. Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School is described by governors as a beacon of light to the Skelmersdale community.

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

Information			
Inspection date	15 January 2024	URN	149982
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	185
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation	Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust		
Executive Headteacher	Alison Barron		
Chair	James Greenlees		
Inspector	Sara Lawrenson	No.	2209