

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

St Margaret's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	
Address	School Rd, Orford, Warrington WA2 9AD

School vision
Through our vision strapline, Care, Challenge and Celebrate with Christ, we learn, are inspired, gain opportunity and receive nurture, so our whole school community may experience the joy and hope of 'life in all its fullness'. (John 10.10)
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school's Christian vision is highly effective in meeting the needs of its community and has an outward looking focus.</li> <li>Collective worship enhances the spiritual development of pupils and adults. It has the Christian vision at its heart.</li> <li>Relationships are strong and enable pupils and adults to flourish. There is a strong culture of care and Christian love.</li> <li>The religious education (RE) curriculum is well-designed and adapted to meet the needs of pupils.</li> <li>The frequent opportunities for spiritual development are highly valued by pupils and adults.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance pupils' experience of RE through a global focus. This is to ensure that pupils gain a deeper knowledge of Christianity as a world faith.</li> <li>Extend the reach of the school's vision in the wider community through a local Christian partnership initiative. This is in order to support pupils' engagement in issues of justice and responsibility.</li> </ul>
Inspection findings
<p>The school's Christian vision of 'Care, Challenge and Celebrate with Christ' is central to the life of school. It reflects the needs of the community and is a key aspect of pastoral care. The impact of the vision is regularly monitored in terms of securing flourishing. The school is aspirational for pupils and adults. Links between the vision and the teachings and life of Jesus are made explicit. Pupils speak of challenging themselves to do better and caring for others. Celebration is an important aspect of school life. Pupils talk of the school's Christian values and the affect they have on their daily lives. Pupils and adults see themselves as disciples of Jesus.</p> <p>The Christian vision is pivotal in curriculum design. Aspiration flows through the school. Leaders are clear in their ambition for all to flourish. Thorough monitoring evaluates how effective the vision's aspiration for challenge is reflected in the curriculum. Positive outcomes show the clear impact of the vision in terms of curriculum design and implementation. The school's own 'LION curriculum' (Learn, Inspire, Opportunity and Nurture), is rooted in the scriptures. Governors are well-informed and monitor the impact of the curriculum. They offer support and challenge through regular information sessions. Opportunities for spiritual development are woven through all aspects of daily life and are valued by</p>

pupils. They speak of having opportunities to show their talents given by God for example, in school concerts and gardening club. The school provides regular residential visits which also have an emphasis on spirituality.

The Christian vision is central to collective worship. There are clear links to the school's values. During worship, songs are sung to God in fine voice with enjoyment and enthusiasm. Woven throughout all worships are the scriptures. Pupils take the messages given in worship and act on them. For example, one pupil spoke of how we all should share after hearing the story of the feeding of the five thousand. Eucharist services are a regular feature. Pupils treat collective worship with respect and reverence and there are various opportunities for spiritual development. Adults also speak of finding worship spiritual. Ensuring the pattern of worship is consistent, as well as other considerations, makes it accessible. The impact and quality of these times are monitored by pupils and adults. Leaders of worship select carefully chosen words. This is to ensure that those present can make a choice to participate if they so wish. The strong Christian ethos in school results in a number of pupils and adults being confirmed each year. Worship is led by a variety of adults and pupils. Therefore, it is stimulating as pupils experience a breadth of different styles and themes.

Relationships are extremely strong, which comes from the school's vision. Pupils know they are unique, loved and nurtured and that the adults in school will listen to them and help. Staff feel supported and valued and appreciate the open-door policy adopted by leaders. They are provided with regular and relevant continuous professional development, including training on mental health. Leaders place staff wellbeing as a high priority, resulting in a low turnover. Loving relationships within school are valued by parents. They speak extremely highly of the school and describe it as a second home for their children. Governors are supportive and present. The school also benefits from strong relationships with the church in areas such as collective worship, RE and confirmation classes. Their knowledge and input enhance these areas. Pupils feel ownership of the church and refer to it as 'theirs'. Diversity is celebrated and everyone is treated with dignity and respect. On the rare occasions that pupils fall out, quick solutions are sought. Pupils speak of Jesus giving them courage to forgive. Opportunities are offered to talk things through in order to resolve the issue. During unstructured times, pupils interact well and treat each other with respect. There is a developing partnership with a local faith group. The school is outward looking in that it shares good practice with other local Church schools. This group of schools have worked on both RE and collective worship. St. Margaret's Church of England Primary School takes a lead on this group and pupils and adults benefit from this work.

Pupils have a good understanding of justice and responsibility and raising funds for charity is well-established. Taking part in a rainbow project with local Church schools has resulted in a greater understanding of inclusivity and acceptance for pupils. Messages given to pupils in worship and RE enable and inspire them to take action themselves such as litter picking and tree planting. Pupils recently learnt of a charity involved in the donation of books to deprived children. This led to pupils organising a similar event for World Book Day.

RE has a high priority across the school. The RE curriculum has been carefully designed and adapted in order for pupils to succeed. There is a dedicated space for RE in each classroom. High-quality, well-planned lessons, which include a range of teaching styles, result in enthusiastic engagement and deep philosophical thinking from pupils. A variety of world faiths are explored in lessons. Special days, such as Eid and Holocaust Memorial Day, are also explored. Key skills of reflection and discussion are well-catered for. Pupils are regularly asked to relate Gospel stories to their own lives. For example, links are made between refugees and the Christmas story. These links enable RE to be relevant for pupils. Studying people helping and caring for each other, against the odds, inspires them to be Christ-like. The

combination of RE and collective worship, underpinned by the vision, results in pupils developing as critical thinkers. RE is monitored and assessed regularly and progress is strong.

The inspection findings indicate that St. Margaret's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is living up to its foundations as a church school.

Information			
Inspection date	06 March 2024	URN	131349
VA/VC/Academy	VA	Pupils on roll	450
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Executive Headteacher	Chris Metcalfe		
Chair	Ann Elphick		
Inspector	Katie Prescott	No.	C23/24