

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Platt Bridge	
Address	Wright Street, Platt Bridge, Wigan, WN2 3NX
School vision	
<p>'Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you'. These words are taken from one of our favourite songs and are inspired by Joshua 1:9. Our mission is to help children to develop the skills of an effective lifelong learner, build successful relationships, have clear Christian values and principles and live by them. We don't give up; we learn by our mistakes and we are kind to each other.</p> <p>Our three school rules are : Be ready, be respectful, be safe.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian vision is carefully crafted and appropriate for those it serves. It galvanises a shared commitment enabling everyone to flourish in a supportive and loving community. • Strong, dedicated leaders, at all levels, are transforming life at St Mary's as they live out the school's Christian vision. Impactful decisions, guided by the vision, are made to support all pupils. • Pupils champion a clear understanding of the vision and values. It clearly makes a positive difference for them. There is a warm, loving community feel around school. All are valued showing one another a high level of dignity and respect. • Religious education (RE) is a highly valued subject. Supportive, enthusiastic leadership has enabled a curriculum that is broad and relevant. Big questions challenge and deepen pupils' thinking. This significantly strengthens pupils' understanding of Christianity and world views. • Leaders ensure that proficient and committed staff are equipped to serve their families well. Pastoral care is highly valued and makes a significant positive impact on pupils. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend pupils' knowledge of global issues to enhance their experience and develop as courageous advocates for justice. • Enhance the systems of evaluation and monitoring of effectiveness of collective worship. This is to strengthen leaders' understanding of its impact and effectiveness. • Develop wider opportunities for pupils to lead collective worship. This is to build on the learning experience and further opportunities for spiritual development. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>St Mary's is a calm and nurturing school. The Christian vision and values have been carefully created by the leaders in collaboration with the community it serves. They are inclusive and accessible for all. The impact of this is that many clearly know the vision, seeing it in action regularly. The shared</p>	

ownership has had a huge impact on stabilising the school community. It is a positive place to be. The vision underpins the intention to learn and live successful lives. 'Be ready, be respectful, be safe', are core to the school expectations. A wide range of opportunities, within the curriculum and through wider partnerships, effectively contribute to the ethos. Leaders know the school context and decisions are thoughtfully made. They intentionally create enriching opportunities for every pupil. They secure assistance for their current needs and prepare them for the future. As a result, there is a shared determination to improve life chances. St Mary's is piloting a mental health support hub through the NHS. Opportunities like this help pupils to develop skills in resilience, perseverance and determination.

Insightful leadership has responded to the specific needs of the school community. The vision and values support the decisions made. Careful consideration is given to the development of each pupil. High aspirations for all learners result in a supportive and inclusive environment. One impact is the development of a specialist resource, supporting skill development, woven through each subject area. As a consequence of this inclusive strategy pupils are developing skills to be lifelong learners, building successful relationships. This includes pupils considered vulnerable and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Thoughtful wider learning experiences offer further opportunities for growth. These creative opportunities firmly support the vision with many pupils engaging in these.

Collective worship is an integral part of the school day. The programme of delivery is carefully planned to effectively weave together the vision and values. Pupils appreciate the worship at the end of the school day. They champion the time to reflect and feel peaceful as they go home. Singing together is done with enthusiasm and offers a wider spiritual experience. Prayers are seen as a way to speak to God and places where prayers can be placed are well used. As a consequence of the structured routine, pupils willingly contribute their own thoughts to the worship space in each classroom. The reflection garden is also effectively used, providing an impressive location for quiet contemplation. The impact of this is that pupils benefit from experiencing faith in different ways. They speak with joy and pride about the opportunities to contribute to the spiritual growth of others. Sharing with parents and carers is also very important to them. Pupils attend the local church at significant points in the Anglican year. These events are well supported by families. The school links successfully with the local church and hub. These partnerships thrive and are mutually beneficial. Trips to places of worship provide experiences for richer spiritual development and moments of awe and wonder. The variety of styles of worship including prayer, Bible stories and singing offer wider spiritual experiences and opportunities for spiritual flourishing.

The school ensures, in line with the vision, that children develop skills to be lifelong learners and build successful relationships. As a result, everyone is known by staff and seen as an individual. Every pupil is offered breakfast each day. This initiative supports the school's vision in being ready and kind to each other. Pupils know that a good start to each day will help with their development and is part of being ready to learn. Parents champion the assistance of the school in a wide range of ways. Meeting and greeting families at the start of the school day supports pupils being ready for the day. Unwavering help is given to those in need, with any concerns listened to and addressed sensitively. Dedicated and supportive pastoral care is always available. The respectful partnership between leaders, parent and pupils is widely evident. Staff describe working at St Mary's as 'feeling part of a supportive family'. They feel valued because they know leaders care about their wellbeing. Being kind and respectful underpins the relationships in this nurturing school. The words of the vision are clearly lived out daily. Dedicated staff have established a trusting community where everyone is rightly valued. Pupils feel safe in school and know that they will be listened to. Consequently, behaviour is good. Rare disagreements between peers are dealt with effectively and resolved with kindness.

The 'class cause' initiative allows pupils to support individual charities. They enthusiastically participate in fundraising activities. They regularly engage in opportunities to learn about their charities. Visitors to school talk about the work they do and encourage the community in ways they can help. Understanding global issues is explored through the wider curriculum. Charitable work is underpinned by the vision. They are encouraged to be kind and respectful to one another, building successful relationships. The older pupils take it in turns throughout the school year to volunteer at the food pantry. This effectively provides help and support to the local community. As a result of this work, they are developing an understanding about taking action to make positive changes to assist others.

RE is well led and leaders ensure the subject has a high profile. The curriculum provides all pupils with opportunities to gain an understanding about a range of world religions and views. Leaders implement specialist resources that effectively complement the local scheme. Lessons are well planned, engaging and challenging. Teachers provide a safe place for pupils to explore and share their opinions. Pupils confidently articulate knowledge of the Bible and are able to respond to big questions. The teaching of world religions is enriched with faith based trips and visiting speakers to school. The introduction of visits and visiting speakers has enhanced the cultural experience. They develop respect for a range of religions. Staff receive excellent, supportive professional development. This supports the consistency of delivery across the school.

The inspection findings indicate that St Mary's Church of England Primary school, Platt Bridge is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	31 January 2024	URN	106447
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	267
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Gillian Talbot		
Chair	Catherine Cloake		
Inspector	Tina Astley	No.	2205