

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Peter's Smithills Dean Church of England Primary School	
Address	Limefield Road, Smithills, Bolton, BL1 6LA
School vision	
<p>Let Your Light Shine!</p> <p>Our vision is to prepare everyone to be positive and effective St Peter's citizens, shining their light in the world. This vision is rooted in the Bible: Matthew 5:16 ...</p> <p>"let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded Christian vision, and associated values, result in a loving and supportive school culture. Staff model, and pupils are taught, how to treat others exceptionally well. • Leaders, including Forward As One Trust leaders, care deeply about the wellbeing of staff. The nurturing Christian vision, 'Let Your Light Shine', extends to all staff members, who are well supported professionally and personally. • The school's vision and values shape the ambitious and engaging 'Shine Curriculum'. Every opportunity is taken to ensure that pupils flourish in their learning and their successes are valued and celebrated. • Character development is a strength of the school. Pupils are very well supported to become young leaders. They think deeply about concerns, both within the school community and the wider world. They recognise injustice and act as agents of change. • Rich and engaging worship is a highlight of the school day. It is carefully planned to meet the needs of the school community and is constantly developing. It contributes significantly to the wellbeing and spiritual development of pupils and adults. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and embed a shared understanding of spirituality. This is to support planning for spiritual development across the curriculum to ensure that every opportunity is identified and taken. • Further enhance the curriculum for religious education (RE) in line with current plans. This is to maximise pupils' understanding of a wider range of religions and worldviews to secure their continued flourishing. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The deeply embedded Christian vision to, 'Let Your Light Shine', is at the heart of decision making at St Peter's Smithills Dean school. It helps leaders to establish a culture in which pupils and adults know themselves as cherished and supported to flourish. It is reflected in school policies and in how they are implemented by leaders. It is equally visible in the warm and supportive relationships staff</p>	

have with one another and with pupils. The school's vision is closely aligned to the Forward As One Trust Vision. As a result, the school is a crucial part of the trust family, with leaders offering their time and skills. Governors monitor successfully the impact of the vision via formal monitoring and informal drop-ins. They understand pupils' and adult' strengths and the way in which they need support. Through their policies, strategic decisions and financial planning, governors demonstrate regularly and visibly the school' values. Pupils are taught, from their earliest time at the school, the importance of treating others well. Older pupils delight in looking after their younger schoolmates. Kindness is key at St Peter's and is lived out in the classroom and the playground. This is clearly seen during social times inside and out of school.

Parents and carers value the compassionate pastoral care that staff provide for their children. They recognise and appreciate the lengths to which staff go to develop their children as individuals. Reflecting the school's Christian vision and supporting values, leaders offer pupils an exceptional range of experiences and opportunities. Staff members support pupils in identifying and celebrating their personal gifts and talents. Pupils relish sharing in the achievements of their classmates and the wider school community.

The wellbeing of staff at St Peter's is prioritised. Every member of staff is exceptionally well supported to let their own light shine. They appreciate the opportunities they are given to capitalize on their individual skills and knowledge. Leaders, including Forward As One Trust personnel, ensure that continuous professional development is appropriately balanced with strategies to reduce workload. Staff members value the collegiality and expertise that working with their counterparts across the trust offers. They describe how it contributes to their flourishing.

Driven by the school's vision, leaders ensure that the 'Shine Curriculum' enables all pupils, including the most vulnerable, to flourish. Leaders describe powerfully how the school's distinctively Christian values of 'love, hope, respect, trust and thankfulness' enable pupils to thrive. Each of the school's values is carefully woven into the curriculum. They are also evident in the varied and extensive extra-curricular offer which is tailored to the school's context. Staff build the school value of trust by demonstrating their own vulnerability. They model a willingness to show a mindset in which all abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. As a result, pupils and their families know that 'learning from mistakes makes for success'. Pupils support one another to persevere when they find learning challenging. A deeply Christian sense of hope pervades all areas of the curriculum. The impact of this is evident in pupils' dreams and their ambitions for the future.

The highly relevant Christian values also contribute significantly to the character development of pupils at St Peter's. Every opportunity is taken to develop pupils' understanding of difference and diversity. They take delight in respectfully learning about the lives of classmates whose backgrounds are different from their own. Pupils gain a thorough understanding of social justice. They are supported to appreciate, give thanks and care for possessions and resources. There are regular opportunities to reflect on how to respond to injustice in their own lives and in the wider community. However, there is currently no shared understanding of spirituality at St Peter's. Leaders recognise that planned opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum are not currently maximized.

In keeping with the school's vision, pupils are given the opportunity to shine as young leaders. They have increasing levels of responsibility as they progress through the school. For example, some pupils in Key Stage 2 are voted in as pupil governors. They directly communicate between the pupil and governor bodies. Pupils in Year 6 are offered a wide range of leadership roles for which they can apply. As a result, by the time they leave, pupils are involved in strategic decision making. They independently initiate change to improve the lives of others. Pupils implement recycling, wildlife, fairtrade and kindness initiatives to enhance their local and global community.

Collective worship is a special time of day, allowing pupils and adults time to reflect, give thanks and grow spiritually. Leaders' thoughtful and creative planning reflects the vision and values of the school and the liturgical calendar. Equally, it leaves an important and appreciated space to respond to local or global issues or needs. Pupils and adults provoke one another into deep thought and reflection. Pupils respond positively to 'wondering' questions. Regular online 'trust worship' allows pupils to connect with their wider family of Forward as One Trust schools. Pupils benefit from the challenge and difference that this offers. The collaborative relationship with St Peter's and sister churches contributes significantly to the worship and spiritual life of the school. School and church leaders have found creative ways to overcome the geographical distance between buildings. Church worship takes place regularly in the school. Equally, the school community worships regularly at the church via Sunday services or special moments in school life. Church and school leaders, including pupils, are key to the success of these joint services.

The school's RE provision is effective in enabling pupils to gain a good understanding of Christianity as a living world faith. Pupils enjoy learning about stories from the Bible and reflecting on how they are relevant in modern Britain. They share their views confidently and debate with classmates questions to which there is no right answer very respectfully. Leaders ensure that the RE curriculum is well-sequenced and challenging. Pupils in Key Stage 2 appreciate learning about the different accounts of the Christian narrative in the Gospel stories and drawing conclusions from these variations. They value learning about a range of religions and compare how they relate to Christianity. However, across the school, the impact of learning about a wide range of world views and faiths is currently limited. Leaders' understanding of pupils' progress in their learning is accurate. They recognise that developing further pupils' understanding of religions and worldviews, other than Christianity, is a priority. Leaders, supported by the Forward As One Trust and the Diocese, have already begun to implement plans to address this.

The inspection findings indicate that St Peter's Smithills Dean School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	7 March 2024	URN	145751
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	215
Diocese	Manchester		
MAT/Federation	Forward as One CE Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Matt Harding		
Chair	Christine Winstanley		
Inspector	Charlotte Tudway	No.	2115