

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bolton Parish Church of England VA Church School	
Address	Chadwick Street, Bolton, BL2 1JN

School vision
<p style="text-align: center;">Life in all its fullness' John 10v10</p> <p>Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, our vision is to create an environment where everyone is enabled to reach their full potential academically, personally and spiritually. We will live out this daily through our core value of love, which is reflected in all our policies and practise. This will be further enhanced by our additional six Christian values of; Peace, Friendship, Respect, Responsibility, Thankfulness and Forgiveness.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is lived out in everything that the school undertakes. It is underpinned by Christian teachings and the associated values enable it to be understood by pupils and adults. As a result, pupils and adults grow together. • Leaders actively create a school wide culture of inclusivity and equity. It welcomes, nurtures and supports all, including the vulnerable and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), enabling them to flourish. • Collective worship is at the heart of the school. It has significant impact upon pupils, enabling them to develop their spirituality. It gives them a strong moral sense of right and wrong and how they might live their lives. • Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a well-sequenced and balanced curriculum. It progresses pupils' knowledge and understanding of major world religions. • Underpinned and strengthened by caring loving relationships , pastoral support is at the heart of this school. As a result, adults and pupils feel well supported and thus enabled to live life in all its fullness.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed a shared definition and school wide understanding of spirituality. This will ensure the impact of spiritual development can be fully maximised. • Ensure the transition to the new RE curriculum is fully implemented. This will enable pupils to develop a balanced and deeper understanding of biblical teachings and world views over time.
Inspection findings
<p>Bolton Parish is a welcoming school. Leaders and governors have enhanced the school vision of 'life in all its fullness' to meet and support the needs of the local community. The vision is fully shared and embedded into the life of the school. It develops relationships based on love and is enhanced by the other core values of peace, friendship, respect, responsibility, thankfulness and forgiveness. Leaders have made courageous decisions to ensure they meet the needs of those who are vulnerable or have SEND. Initiatives, like the school dog, make a positive difference to pupils who benefit from additional emotional support.</p> <p>The vision drives the curriculum to meet the needs of pupils. A set of values are visible and integral</p>

to daily life of the school. Pupils recognise the values in their own lives, and how they inspire them to make good choices. This is reflected in the behaviour of pupils in the school. Integral to this curriculum are the opportunities offered to all pupils. Visitors enhance learning opportunities, such as, dance, youth church, and live author lessons. To ensure pupils are given the help they need, they have each been given electronic devices, to complete homework. This is highly successful. Individualised packages of tailored learning gives pupils the best chance to succeed.

The inclusive collective worship provides daily opportunity for reflection and stillness. Prayer, silence and singing are used to allow pupils to engage and reflect on the meaning of worship themes and develop spirituality. Pupils reflect and pose questions on the 'Wow, ow and now' resulting in a deeper level of thinking during worship. However a shared definition and true understanding of spirituality is not yet embedded. Christians from history are used as real life examples to show pupils how to live their life as children of God. Collective worship is invitational and valued by pupils and adults alike. Pupils and adults show respect for the feelings and values of others. Prayer boxes and reflection spaces are available around the school for personal prayer. These can be displayed on the prayer tree in the entrance to the school, making pupils proud to share. The ethos group regularly plan, lead and evaluate collective worship. The ethos group have trained in 'Wiggle Worship', which uses puppets and songs to deliver Bible stories to the youngest pupils. This gives the youngest pupils the chance to engage most effectively with biblical texts and develops their spirituality.

Leaders at the school instil aspirations for all pupils by encouraging them to 'learn to love, love to learn'. Exciting and inspiring trips are planned across the curriculum to ensure pupils understand about wider opportunities in the world. For example pupils have the opportunity to spend the night in a local museum, visit local book shops, Anderton Centre and Winmarleigh Hall. Pupils are advocates for change in the world. They have written letters to several world leaders, stressing the value of peace in today's society. Pupils say 'as a society we need respect to get along and have peace'. This enables people to live life to all its fullness, together as a community.

Governors articulate the vision well and can give practical examples of how it is driving their decision making. They measure the impact of the vision through monitoring and evaluation. Governors prioritise the importance of good wellbeing for staff and pupils and actively work to achieve this. A true sense of belonging and looking after one another reverberates through the school. A full time wellbeing 'champion' and mental health first aider is always available to support staff and pupils. A full time attendance and learning mentor is on hand in the school day to support pupils who need additional help. This shows the school's commitment to good mental health and of all its community. Staff firmly believe that everyone can achieve and actively seek to develop that self-belief in every learner. They embrace opportunities for professional learning and development and are supported by well established and experienced staff. This supports the school's drive to continually improve.

The school nurtures its pupils, supports parents. Leaders offer an 'open door' policy to any staff who have concerns or problems. Pupils know they can speak to an adult at any time and they will be listened to. Pupils behave well. They say that, when they fall out, they use the values of love, respect and forgiveness to restore and repair. Parents appreciate that all staff are approachable and have time to talk to them.

The school has strong links with Bolton Parish church and pupils visit regularly. Clergy from different local churches visit school, lead worship and are active in RE lessons and clubs. Café church is a monthly drop in session offered to all pupils and their families. Lunchtime sessions from 'Bridge Church' are available to different classes each week and are popular and well attended. This encourages pupils to become involved with the church outside of school times. Pupils feel part of the wider church community. Resources used in RE and collective worship help them to understand

some current affairs. Pupils enjoy taking responsibility. Many pupils are members of the ethos group or school council and the two head girls and one head boy, participate and lead celebration worship.

RE is well-planned, sequenced and enthusiastically led by the RE lead and reflects the school's vision. In recognition of the importance of RE, it is only taught by class teachers. Books and floor-books reflect the creative, rich and engaging opportunities pupils have to develop their knowledge of world religions. POP (proof of progression) tasks are used effectively at the end of each unit to show understanding and progression. Teachers use the assessment frameworks accurately capturing pupil achievement. More pupils are achieving greater depth, in RE showing understanding. Sequenced and coherent teaching enables pupils to develop a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Christianity. Pupils recall prior learning and use this to inform their work and build their understanding. Through enrichment opportunities they celebrate a wide range of festivals such as Diwali and Eid and pupils talk of the support they receive when fasting or praying. However, the curriculum structure does not support long term understanding and retention of pupils' learning about worldviews. Leaders recognise this and are changing to a new syllabus. Strong links with the local diocese ensure the RE lead accesses relevant training, which is cascaded to all staff.

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

Information			
Inspection date	5 March 2024	URN	105229
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	252
Diocese	Manchester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Angela Worthington		
Chair	John Walsh		
Inspector	Claire Clark	No.	2203