

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church Church of England VA Primary School, Padgate	
Address	Station Road, Padgate, Warrington, WA2 0QJ
School vision	
<p style="text-align: center;">‘Together, with God’s love, we can achieve anything’ Luke 1: 37 ‘For with God, nothing is impossible’ Our Christ Church Vision for Education</p> <p>To be a family where we love one another as Jesus loves us, learning and sharing together, growing in character and giving of our best to achieve greatness – ‘For with God, nothing is impossible’ Luke 1: 37. To nurture compassionate, thoughtful and knowledgeable citizens of their community, country and the modern world’.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is clearly understood by the school and its community. It guides leaders, including governors, in their decision making, creating a culture of togetherness and high aspirations. • Inspired by the Christian vision, relationships between the school and its community are extremely positive and well-valued. The wellbeing of everyone is important and is shaped by an overwhelming sense of Christian love. • Leaders have ensured that the curriculum is carefully planned. With the vision at the heart of this, staff provide a wide range of opportunities for pupils to fulfil their potential. • Collective worship is valued by all. At the centre of this is the promotion of the school's vision and associated values. The variety of styles of worship support spiritual growth and enhances a strong sense of community. • Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a well-sequenced and balanced curriculum. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic learners who confidently ask questions and share their ideas. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a shared understanding of spirituality across the school. This is to further support adults and pupils in their spiritual growth. • Increase pupils’ opportunities to be agents of change beyond the local community. This is to enable them to challenge injustice and make a difference both locally and globally. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The school’s Christian vision plays a pivotal role in fostering an environment where both pupils and adults can thrive. This is underpinned by the school’s ‘CHRIST’ values including compassion and thankfulness. Interactions among pupils and adults exemplify the values, fostering a culture of respect and integrity. The vision is shared and embraced by stakeholders and partners putting it at the heart of the decision making process. Guided by the ‘CHRIST’ values, ambitious leaders,</p>	

including governors, provide resources for improvement and staff development. Investment in staff training and the provision of specific pastoral roles ensures that both pupils and adults receive valued support. As a result of these, across the whole school community, pupils and adults flourish.

The school's curriculum reflects the Christian vision in many ways. It is carefully designed to embody Jesus' love for all and foster a culture of inclusivity. This includes striving for academic excellence and personal spiritual growth. This commitment to inclusivity is evident throughout the curriculum. Thoughtful planning of residentials and extracurricular activities ensures equitable access for all pupils. These experiences deepen friendships and foster bonds of togetherness and empathy among pupils. The emphasis on working together whilst striving for personal best is clearly evident across the school. The vision's focus on areas such as care and togetherness guides pupils' future aspirations. Many are inspired to consider professions where they can help others. The school's 'Green curriculum' gives pupils the chance to look after their local environment whilst learning to grow produce for the local community. Close working relationships with local schools and institutions in this country and abroad demonstrate leaders' commitment to excellence. Opportunities for spiritual development are interwoven throughout daily life at Christ Church. These include confirmation classes, prayer spaces, and time for older pupils to lead prayers including during social times. However, there is no shared understanding of spirituality or language to describe the impact of these experiences, limiting their impact on pupils' spiritual development. The school's ethos of inclusivity extends to every aspect of its life from playground interactions to pastoral care. Staff and pupils ensure that every member of the school family is embraced and celebrated. Through the curriculum, staff focus on the growth of knowledge as well as developing pupils' compassion and resilience. This encourages them to want to make a positive impact on the world.

Collective worship serves as the cornerstone in enabling both pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. How they can express the impact of this is limited, as there is no shared understanding of spirituality. Designed to be inclusive, worship provides opportunities for pupils to share the 'CHRIST' values regularly with their families. This helps to foster a strong sense of unity and belonging. The positive partnership with 'Open the Book' volunteers from Christ Church church enriches the collective worship experiences. These promote learning and sharing together with the local community. Worship is effectively shaped by the school's Christian vision. Leaders ensure it is inclusive and welcoming to pupils of all faiths. Incorporating guest speakers and inviting pupils to lead prayers enhances engagement and participation in worship.

Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders cultivate an environment where both pupils and adults are treated with care and respect. The vision influences leadership outcomes around training and recruitment practices. Governors make bold decisions with a focus on the overall care provision. This is evident in the employment of dedicated pastoral staff. The Christian vision guides policy reviews undertaken by staff. Consequently, lives are enhanced through the compassionate treatment, and inclusive ambition for every individual. The impact of this is reflected in the positive school culture demonstrated by pupils and adults and this is valued by parents. Leaders invest in high quality staff development provided by the diocese and other specialist providers. Leaders insist on the vision being at the forefront of training to ensure a focus on character growth and empathy towards others. Partnerships, including those with the local church, create a nurturing and supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

Through the Christian vision, leaders prioritise fairness and responsibility within the school. This is evident through staff-pupil relationships and the various community engagements they take part in. Pupils actively engage in initiatives promoting justice and responsibility in school. Older pupils take on a range of responsibilities across the school, including running a school shop and supporting younger pupils. Adults trust them to carry out these commitments and act as good role models. As a

result, pupils thrive in these situations. Litter picks and donations to the local food bank are organised as a result of consultation between pupils and the eco council. Leaders celebrate pupil's efforts in challenging injustice in newsletters. This reinforces the importance of taking responsibility and standing up for what is just. However, beyond the school, pupils are less aware of how they can act independently to challenge injustice and be agents of change.

The RE curriculum is effective due to the high-quality planning and teaching. Leaders continually review and adapt the curriculum teaching sequence to maximise pupils' learning experiences. External reviews for the quality of work, conducted in partnership with local schools, supports the school's ambition for RE. A distinctive feature of the curriculum is the numerous questions in each topic. This approach encourages pupils to investigate, reflect and evaluate. As a result, pupils are able to deepen their understanding of worldviews, religions and spirituality. Regular engagement with the diocese for briefings and training sessions ensures that leaders are informed by best practices. They work with governors to frequently review the RE curriculum. This positively supports its ongoing development.

The broad and comprehensive approach to RE enables pupils to explore and shape their understanding of Christianity as a living global faith. Clear assessment measures are used at the end of the different units of work. This ensures that staff have a clear picture of how well pupils progress in RE. Pupils' books reflect the opportunities they have to develop their knowledge of world religions and worldviews. Leaders evaluate the impact of RE and provide feedback, validating the continuous improvement in teaching quality. As a result, RE teaching ensures that over time pupils make progress.

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

Information			
Inspection date	7 March 2024	URN	111363
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	346
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Ian Williams		
Chair	Peter Bowden		
Inspector	Rob Dean	No.	2129