



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Stonefold Church of England Primary School, Haslingden	
Address	Rising Bridge Road, Accrington, BB5 2SW

School vision
<p>Rooted and Established in God's Love: Nurture, Grow, Fly (Ephesians 3:17) Our vision is to live and grow together as a loving church school family, who celebrate one another's individuality. Built upon our shared Christian values, St John's provides our children with excellent teaching of a bespoke and innovative curriculum, empowering them to flourish with the knowledge and skills for life. From our vision, we inspire our children to have uncompromising aspirations and to thrive and succeed.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision at St John's Stonefold Church of England Primary School, results in a deeply welcoming school. Here, pupils are loved, nurtured and supported to 'fly' as individuals. There is a strong sense of community and this supports the flourishing of pupils and adults. • Leaders are completely dedicated to meeting the needs of pupils. The vision permeates school life giving a strong culture of love, respect and trust between members of the school community. • The inspirational and ambitious curriculum is designed so that all pupils can access learning. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), or those who are vulnerable, receive bespoke support which enables them to flourish. • Collective worship is a daily highlight and enhances the life of the school. It is central to pupils' understanding of the vision and values in daily life. Worship is well supported by local clergy and the school and community enjoy worshipping together. • Religious education (RE) provides pupils with a challenging and exciting curriculum. It is well-planned and resourced through effective subject leadership. Creative and interactive lessons encourage high quality discussions between pupils. This deepens their understanding of Christianity as a worldwide faith and other world views.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed further opportunities for spiritual development into curriculum planning. This is so that pupils grow through rich experiences.
Inspection findings
<p>St John's Stonefold's deep-rooted Christian vision, based on love, is at the heart of this impressive small school. It accurately reflects the context of the school's Christian foundation and community. School leaders and governors are enthusiastic about ensuring that the Christian vision of the school allows pupils and adults to fly. In this they are highly successful. The vision is entirely appropriate to</p>

the needs of the pupils and community. Leaders and governors are easily able to explain how it is underpinned by the teachings of Jesus. They explain that the vision is the bedrock of all they do. The vision is securely expressed in daily life through its five well-embedded Christian values of empathy, aspiration, generosity, love and endurance. These form the word 'eagle' which links the vision and values. Pupils and adults readily articulate the vision and values and actively demonstrate them in their daily lives and connections with each other. Care for one another is tangible in this school and underpins its deeply caring ethos. This warm and friendly school in which everyone is loved and nurtured has seen some turbulent times. With the vision, strong leadership and collaboration with St James's, St John's Stonefield is enabling adults and pupils to grow and fly.

Relationships within the school are exceptionally strong. There is an overwhelming sense of being enveloped in Christian love, which is supporting and increasing pupils' attendance. Pupils show courtesy to adults, play well together and enthusiastically help each other during the day. An effective restorative approach to behaviour helps pupils learn from their mistakes. Pupils understand the importance of forgiveness and starting afresh. Staff give genuine, caring support to each other professionally and personally, compassionately helping parents when they have difficult times. Pupils and staff proudly celebrate St John's Stonefold as a 'family with a big heart' and clearly live this out daily. It is a highly inclusive school, all views are welcomed and staff wellbeing is of the utmost importance.

Nurture, grow and fly are the essence of daily life that shape the aspirational and inclusive curriculum. Leaders and staff work tirelessly to ensure no pupil is left behind through this approach. The school's higher than average proportion of pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND) is well supported. Pupils thrive in the ambitious learning environment and as a result of the opportunities that are afforded to them. Leaders ensure the learning experience for pupils enables them to grow into hopeful citizens of tomorrow's world. They recognise that to achieve this, pupils need to experience the world beyond the local area. Opportunities for pupils to share in rich learning experiences beyond the school are strongly encouraged. These enable pupils to flourish and learn about those who are their 'neighbours' beyond their local community.

Many pupils have a deep, personal understanding of social injustice and responsibility. Therefore, the school's vision of enabling all to fly resonates strongly. Pupils have a clear understanding of personal freedom and rights as this is woven through the curriculum. For instance, they learn about current and historical figures who demonstrate how brave campaigners can achieve change. The idea of the Good Samaritan helping a stranger, someone from a different land and culture, is frequently reiterated. Pupils are clear in their wish to help others and are involved with several charities. The pupils report they use the vision and values in the safeguarding council, school council and eco council. All of these roles give the pupils opportunities to care for each other and for the world.

Collective worship is a time of 'togetherness' when the school meets to worship, reflect and sing. Staff and pupils value the time spent in collective worship as it plays an important part in developing pupils' spirituality. To support this, each classroom has a reflective table. This contains material that is changed regularly, is age-appropriate and is used as a focal point for discussion. Pupils are clear that during worship they develop a sense of calm, peace, wholeness and a connection with God. However, planned opportunities within the curriculum for developing spirituality are more limited. Staff are sustained by collective worship. Planned by the headteacher, staff, faith council and local clergy, pupils are excited to take part in collective worship. Pupils participate by writing and leading prayers, reading and helping. A range of visitors from different traditions help to develop pupils' spirituality. Services are held in the local church at important festivals. Pupils report a highlight of last year was the newly introduced Eucharist service. This has strengthened their understanding of the importance of Jesus to them.



Pupils really enjoy RE, it is an important vehicle for them to learn about each other’s beliefs and practices, as well as their own. Leaders ensure that learning in RE is challenging, interesting, accurate and meets the expectations of RE in a Church school. Early years’ enthusiastic re-enactment of the Easter story was an example of the vision in action. One child reported ‘Easter is not about eggs and bunnies but Jesus saving us all’. Using the diocesan resource, pupils are encouraged to respond to, and ask, big questions. They learn about a range of religions and worldviews. This helps them to develop a sensitive and respectful appreciation of the impact of world religions. In this, the school’s approach of inviting members of world religions to visit the school is fundamental. It brings learning alive, exciting pupils and enriching their understanding of the beliefs and practices of others’. In this way, RE extends pupils’ appreciation of difference and diversity in society. The subject is extremely well led, and the quality of the teaching is very strong. Pupils progress very well because of the engaging and creative teaching strategies. Learning activities are meticulously planned to improve pupils’ knowledge and foster a love of learning in RE. Assessment processes are thorough and pupils’ progress is monitored and tracked robustly. Pupils know how well they are doing. RE is a beacon of good practice.

The inspection findings indicate that St John's Stonefold Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundations as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	19 March 2024	URN	119453
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	122
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Frances Brady		
Chair	Shirley Adams		
Inspector	Elaine Bowers	No.	960