



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England VA Primary School, Hornsey	
Address	Rectory Gardens, Hornsey, London, N8 7QN

School vision

Jesus said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' (John 15:12)
 'As we love, we flourish,
 As we flourish, we aspire,
 As we aspire, we achieve,
 Together, we are a family.'

School strengths

- St Mary's is a calm, caring and inclusive school family, where the vision inspires enriching relationships at all levels. As a result pupils, staff and parents feel loved, supported and encouraged.
- The deeply held Christian vision is driving aspiration and ambition for every pupil in this diverse and life-enhancing church school.
- Partnership with local churches effectively enhances the school's provision. Love, which is shared freely through a range of inclusive and nurturing activities, contributes very well to the flourishing of pupils and staff.
- Knowledgeable and confident Religious Education (RE) teaching leads to high levels of religious literacy. Pupils enjoy their lessons and have a confident understanding of the concepts and vocabulary of a range of faiths.
- Worship is valued by pupils and adults alike. It provides an effective opportunity for spiritual development, through Biblical teaching, prayer and reflection.

Areas for development

- Further develop leaders' monitoring and evaluation. This is so that the Christian vision can continue to impact on the strategic development of the school.
- Further develop work on spirituality. This is so that the spiritual flourishing of pupils can be enhanced through a range of experiences and opportunities.
- Develop pupils' age appropriate understanding of their potential as agents of change. This is so that they can all learn to make a difference to the world in which they live.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision inspires all aspects of provision and care in this nurturing and inclusive school. Leaders are committed to pupils' flourishing, inspired by their belief in the God-given potential of each one. The vision is successfully supported by six values. They are prominently displayed in classrooms and in shared spaces in both the Rectory Gardens and Church Lane sites. Pupils know these well and can explain their relevance in their lives. The impact of the vision is demonstrated by the way in which the school serves the whole community. For example, an experienced teacher

leads an English language class for parents, enabling them to build confidence and friendships. This is a school where people flourish.

St Mary's is a haven of calm, with consistently excellent behaviour evident in classrooms, shared spaces and playgrounds. Inspired by the school's vision of pervading love, relationships within the school are a considerable strength. People are important and the wellbeing and mental health of all is prioritised. Pupils describe how they can seek help from anyone on their 'helping hand' list if they have a problem. They use worry boxes in their classrooms and say that adults will always help them with any difficulties. Well-established systems mean that pupils know they can also talk to peer mediators and anti-bullying ambassadors. Differences are valued and pupils say they are 'like one big loving family'. Staff are supported by leaders, and in turn, help to sustain each other. The church has also provided considerable and valued care and support for pupils and staff during difficult times.

The school has close and mutually beneficial links with local churches. The regular presence of clergy at both school sites and at the school gates emphasises that the church is there to support the flourishing of all. The school works closely with the diocese and is a lead school for its teacher training work. Generous and beneficial partnerships with a local trust and the church provide two community children's workers. They run nurture groups and pastoral sessions, supporting the wellbeing of pupils at both school sites. Their contribution is a powerful and valuable demonstration of Jesus' love in this school. Attendance is carefully and wisely monitored. Aspirational for their pupils' achievement, leaders seek to understand and support home situations, whilst being clear that pupils must attend school.

Leaders, including governors, make strategic decisions inspired by a desire to love their community. They are passionate about the school's future development and are ambitious for the achievement of their pupils. Leaders monitor the extent to which the vision inspires teaching and learning which enables pupils to flourish. However the evidence is not used systematically to drive school improvement. The school's curriculum is thoughtfully planned and structured so that pupils can flourish academically. For example, decisions about the history scheme of work ensure representation for many in the school community. Inspired by the vision, leaders strive to create the conditions leading to the success of all pupils. Consequently learning is frequently enriched with engaging and creative experiences. Pupils benefit from specialist teaching in sport and music, ensuring that standards are high. The school's ambition to nurture the aspiration and achievement of pupils, also inspires a focus on the provision of cultural opportunities. Disadvantaged pupils are prioritised for inclusion in a range of experiences which expand their horizons. This includes visiting the Houses of Parliament, the National Gallery and the Olympic swimming pool. A specific focus on inclusion of pupils with additional needs, demonstrates the way the school encourages all to aspire and achieve. Staff and pupils have a developing understanding of spirituality. Plentiful opportunities are provided for pupils to reflect and to enjoy the wonders of the world around them. For example, a gardening area is available at lunchtimes. However, a full understanding of spirituality is not secure, and its development is not intrinsically embedded in the curriculum.

Collective worship is valued by pupils and staff alike and is rightly considered to be at the heart of the school. The calm and respectful atmosphere enables all to benefit from this effective opportunity for spiritual development. One pupil described how 'being still on the inside and on the outside' helps her to talk to God. Leaders explore the school's vision and values through Bible stories and issues in the world around them. Consequently pupils understand how the vision can impact on their thinking and their actions. Pupils help to lead worship and write prayers which are placed on prayer trees. Opportunities for discussion during worship encourage all pupils and staff to consider themes and share their own responses. Local clergy and church volunteers contribute to a rich and varied diet of worship opportunities for pupils on both sites. Special events such as the annual

Tower Service provide valued opportunities for parents to join the school in worship. Leaders are developing a more formal process for monitoring the impact of worship in order to inform future developments.

RE has a high profile across the school and is enjoyed by pupils. One explained that it is an important subject at St Mary's, 'because we need to understand our world better'. RE is confidently led, with valuable training and curriculum advice provided by the diocese. The carefully planned scheme of work is based on key questions, which encourage pupils to listen, discuss and reflect. Teachers are enthusiastic about the subject and ensure that knowledge and skills are developed through a range of engaging activities. Learning about a range of faiths is enriched by visits to a number of places of worship. RE is carefully and effectively monitored through book scrutinies, pupil conversations and lesson visits. Work in books is of a high quality and demonstrates challenge through a variety of tasks and pupil responses. Carefully created assessment tasks enable teachers to judge progress accurately. Evidence supports the school's view that pupils make strong progress and develop a clear understanding of knowledge and key concepts. The RE policy does not clearly distinguish RE from aspects of collective worship.

The school engages in a range of charitable activities, sometimes suggested by pupils or inspired by community events. Pupils are encouraged when they suggest ways in which they can demonstrate love and care towards people and places. For example, a pupil led 'plastic crusade' was inspired by worship focusing on pollution damaging the natural world. However, a culture of encouraging justice and equipping pupils to make a difference in the world around them is not consistently developed throughout the school.

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

Information			
Inspection date	14 March 2024	URN	102139
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	376
Diocese	London		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Jane O'Brien		
Chair	Venetia Brown		
Inspector	Nicola Flower	No.	2224