



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St George's Church of England Primary School	
Address	The Hoskers, Westhoughton, Bolton. BL5 2FB
School vision	
<p>Our vision is rooted in the Gospel of John and in particular chapter 10, 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' Our vision is rooted in the principle of Jesus' teachings that we must use his teaching to allow children to live life to the full and be able to flourish in their life within and beyond school. Our school vision encompasses our six Christian values: compassion, love, truthfulness, thankfulness, forgiveness and hope.</p> <p>Jesus colours our life, our love, our learning.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision has a clear biblical focus and is lived by the school community. It is used as a driving force for all decisions that are enabling the school community to live life in all its fullness. • A close partnership with the church and local Church schools maintains a sense of community, enriching the spiritual life of the school. • Collective worship is carefully planned and inclusive with invitational opportunities that enable spiritual growth. • As a result of the vision, there are very positive relationships and partnerships between staff, pupils and their families. This enables pupils and adults to feel valued and flourish together. • Committed and passionate staff ensure the religious education (RE) curriculum is knowledge-rich and relevant to pupils. This is due to strong leadership. Pupils are supported to thrive and have their learning needs met effectively. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a shared understanding of spiritual development with pupils and staff. This is to help identify consistent opportunities for rich and relevant experiences throughout the curriculum and school life. • Expand on existing work to encourage courageous advocacy in order to empower pupils to become independent agents of change. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision drives school leaders and governors to ensure that pupils and adults are given the best opportunity to 'live life in its fullness'. As a result, they have created an aspirational working environment where everyone is valued, loved and enabled to flourish. The vision is integrated into</p>	



school life and is an everyday experience. Governors are committed to upholding the vision. It is central to their decision making. One example is their ambitious refurbishment of the classrooms and the addition of a library area. Governors' monitoring shows that pupils are reflective and thoughtful when talking about the impact of the vision. Pupils' enjoyment of school is evident in the way they talk about the rich experiences the school provides for them. Pupils take their values into the community by awarding their school vision badge to people who display the Christian values. Recently, during a confirmation service, they awarded one of these badges to pupils from a local school. Through an understanding of the Christian values and teachings of Jesus, pupils worship and learn well together. Parents see how these values run as a thread throughout everything the school teaches their children. This shared understanding allows pupil to flourish. Staff speak highly of the excellent support they receive. They feel valued and any problems are solved together.

Leaders monitor and adapt the curriculum to reflect the needs of the pupils enabling each one to flourish. A new scheme for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education reflects the vision more closely and enables pupils to thrive. The curriculum has good provision for vulnerable pupils and pupils with special educational needs. Personalised plans mean they can access the curriculum provided. This promotes their ability to learn well and make progress. Pupils are encouraged to reflect during lesson time, enabling them to understand why they are learning about a particular topic. However, pupils do not always recognise this as a time to grow spiritually. The school is proactive in involving families and the wider community to provide experiences and workshops. Strong partnerships with local Church schools have enabled the pupils to share projects together. Year 4 pupils visited a museum with another school as part of a linking schools project. Year 5 pupils joined with pupils from schools in the Church cluster to 'Experience Easter'. Pupils feel empowered working together and belonging to different groups. Being part of the school council, ethos group, and being head boy and girl make them feel valued. To ensure all pupils have richer and deeper opportunities in addition to the taught curriculum, leaders have carefully planned a passport of '50 things' pupils will experience at St George's. This ensures pupils experience 'fullness of life'. The school also nurtures the talents pupils pursue outside school by celebrating their achievements together during celebration worship.

Collective worship is important to the school and is carefully planned using the school vision and values alongside the Church calendar. A close working partnership between teachers and church members enriches worship. Worship strengthens the pupils' knowledge and their understanding of the teachings of Jesus. Pupils will ask themselves, 'What would Jesus do?' when faced with particular problems in their own lives. Regular monitoring of class worship ensures a consistent approach and experience for pupils across the school. Leaders have chosen for worship to take place at the end of the school day, enabling pupils to leave with a message to share at home. Parents appreciate their children being inspired and sharing the school values with their families. This strengthens the partnership between home and school. The pupils in the ethos group welcome the opportunities they get to prepare for worship and to plan and deliver worship alongside the vicar. Reflective spaces in the classrooms and for each key stage offer the opportunity for pupils to reflect and pray outside times of worship. However, few pupils see these as an opportunity to develop an understanding of spiritual growth.

A strong culture of being valued is led by the school's vision and Christian values. This is central to the work of the school, enabling everyone to live life in all its fullness. Leaders nurture staff, ensuring everyone is treated well. Consequently, staff support one other with compassion. Wellbeing is enhanced. They are also encouraged to grow professionally. The staffroom has been updated as a safe and calming space for staff to feel welcome. Great care is taken to ensure pupils feel safe and valued. Parents acknowledge that the school is a nurturing environment and that their children enjoy coming to school. The behaviour policy is based on the vision and restoring positive behaviour. Gentle pastoral care means that the individual needs of pupils going through difficult

times are met sensitively. Parents feel that their children have learnt good manners from school and the school values are reinforced by the reward system where pupils earn 'rainbow hearts'. Staff training in emotion coaching enables them to use consistent approaches when talking to pupils. Staff feel confident to model different emotions and to demonstrate strategies to equip pupils to deal with difficult situations.

The vision is reflected in the school curriculum and gives pupils the chance to be courageous advocates for the world around them. Year 6 looked at the effects of the use of palm oil on the Amazon rainforest. This inspired them to write letters to the Prime Minister expressing their concerns. Pupils explore global issues, regularly sharing world news and views. This is supporting pupils to understand how they can make ethical choices and stand up for justice. The pupils in the early years class responded with empathy and curiosity to news stories about farming communities around the world. The school collaborates with several charities in the community and beyond. For example, a link with the local foodbank 'Urban Outreach' means they have held various events. They engaged local businesses to support them in donating resources. Examples of pupils acting as courageous advocates are mostly adult led. Some pupils are not fully understanding or demonstrating how they can be agents of change.

RE is valued and a high priority at St George's. A new scheme has been introduced this year. The transition has been smooth and any possible gaps in learning addressed. Assessment provides teachers with an accurate indication of pupils' understanding. Teachers use this effectively to plan lessons that ensure pupils make progress. Support and training for staff has come from the RE lead and is enhanced by the collaboration with the local cluster of Church schools. Pupils display a good knowledge and understanding of world religions because they are taught well. They are proud of the rich and varied work in their RE books. The curriculum prepares pupils for life in modern Britain.

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

Information			
School	St George's Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	29 April 2024
URN	131038	VC/VA/Academy	VA
Diocese	Manchester	Pupils on roll	262
Acting Headteacher	Alison Seddon		
Chair of Governors	Georgina James		
Inspector	Helen Kelly	No.	C.23/24