

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Newchurch St Nicholas Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Dark Lane, Newchurch, BB4 7UA
School vision	
<p>‘Start children off the way they should go and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.’ Proverbs 22: 6</p> <p>Newchurch St Nicholas is a school which supports all of its community to thrive and flourish now and in the future. Everyone in the community will be empowered to recognise their God-given potential, a strong sense of personal identity, an unshakeable notion of their self-worth and the impact of God’s love on them. This will be so deeply embedded in our pupils that it will stay with them all of their lives.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inspiring Christian vision drives the strategic decisions and policy choices that leaders make. It is at the heart of the school’s ethos and reinforces its values. Adults and pupils thrive as they aim for their God-given potential. • The school’s nurturing environment supports pupils and adults exceptionally well. This includes those most vulnerable. The strong relationship with local partners, including the church, further enhances this. As a result, pupils enjoy their learning and are able to be successful. • Rooted in the Christian vision, relationships across the school community are highly supportive of both pupils and adults. Differences are respected and celebrated, enabling personal confidence and a sense of wellbeing to thrive. • Underpinned by the school’s vision and values, collective worship is well planned and organised. Its inclusive approach and focus on current issues offers mindful reflection opportunities for pupils’ and adults’ spiritual growth. • Leaders ensure that the religious education (RE) curriculum is relevant for pupils in the society they live in. It is well resourced, and pupils have a good knowledge of worldviews and world religions including Christianity. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the school’s shared understanding of spirituality. This is to enable pupils and adults to talk about spirituality in all areas of the curriculum. • Develop pupils’ awareness of how they can challenge injustice. This is to empower them to become more confident agents of change. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders at Newchurch St Nicholas empower pupils and adults to achieve their God-given potential. Underpinned by their Christian values, staff take biblical strength from ‘Start children off the way they should go.’ Proverbs 22:6. As a result they constantly strive to enable pupils to be the best they can be. Leaders frequently share the collaborative Christian vision</p>	

with parents, staff and pupils. This enables pupils and adults to flourish by embedding the six key Christian values into the fabric of the community. These include trust, thankfulness, and forgiveness. The impact of this can be seen in how the community works together to achieve the very best for pupils. Regular and effective monitoring of the Christian vision ensures that leaders, including governors, have a clear understanding of its impact.

The school's Christian vision inspires the broad and balanced curriculum. Leaders ensure that pupils, have a consistent and comprehensive education. New learning starts by identifying pupils' current knowledge, affirming their self-worth. This helps staff to adapt their plans to meet the needs of the pupils. In this school-wide approach they are fully inclusive and respectful of individual differences. Staff draw on local heritage and show pupils broader horizons through extensive extracurricular activities and cultural visits. Inspired by the Christian vision, this helps to create a sense of wonder and appreciation for the world. Staff use these moments to help pupils grow spiritually. Themed weeks, including careers week and a pupil passport programme, further enrich the curriculum. These initiatives successfully reflect the school's vision of nurturing each pupil's potential and preparing them for future opportunities. Incorporating 'wow moments', opportunities for reflection, and big questions fosters spirituality across the curriculum. However, there is limited vocabulary in place to support this. This limits pupils' ability to express their feelings and grow spiritually.

The school's Christian vision creates a culture where pupils and adults treat each other well. Leaders achieve this through open communication, supporting individuals and fostering a welcoming community. This is particularly evident in how the school embraces its diverse and small transient population. Leaders strive to ensure they include and value families when making decisions. The strong emphasis on the Christian value of friendship underpins celebrating cultures and heritages. The school's successful inclusive approach demonstrates a commitment to understanding and addressing diverse needs. Ongoing training and collaborating with specialists, including play therapists, ensure that pupils are supported to thrive with their wellbeing. Leaders, including governors, understand the impact of the Christian vision. When necessary, they take effective action. The rewritten behaviour policy, which emphasises positive behaviours and relationships, creates a consistent and supportive environment. As a result, pupils and staff build strong, respectful relationships, contributing to a harmonious school community. These relationships with parents and pupils foster a culture of honesty and trust. This reflects the parents' positive comments about the school. The school's effective relationships with external agencies further enhance its ability to meet the diverse needs of pupils and families. Wellbeing in school is a high priority for leaders. The school's vision and ethos are central to the effective staff induction process. Included are discussions about wellbeing and professional development. The impact of this is a culture of continuous improvement that values and motivates staff.

Collective worship enables pupils and adults to grow spiritually. The school's interpretation of spirituality and the sense of awe and wonder in God's creation is fundamental to its approach. At the heart of this is an inclusive and reflective environment that explores the school's Christian values. Collective worship gathers together the school community at the start of the day. This reinforces a sense of unity and belonging with pupils say worship has something for everyone. They engage with big questions, recognise 'wow moments,' and reflect on their humanity. Each week the ethos group encourage their peers to use the values in their daily lives. They are involved in planning, delivering and providing feedback for worship. This ensures that worship remains both relevant and engaging for pupils. The ethos group is an ever-evolving group of pupils. This empowers the group and also fosters a communal spirit. Collective worship is inclusive, with adults supporting pupils who would otherwise find it overwhelming. Opportunities for personal reflection are accessed through classroom worship tables and reflection books. This extends the impact of worship beyond the time itself and further enhances pupils' spiritual growth. Partnerships with the local church and other

organisations enrich the worship experience. They provide additional resources and opportunities for communal worship beyond the school setting. These links enhance the spirituality of the school community.

Leaders have established a community where the Christian vision inspires members to look after each other. There is an active culture of fairness and responsibility. This focuses on friendship and hope. These values drive a commitment to support and advocate for those who cannot help themselves. Pupil groups such as the school council, and ethos group play pivotal roles. They champion changes within the school, decide on charitable activities and address school issues. Changes to the playground for lunchtime activities are one example of this. Their leadership in activities, such as carol singing fundraisers and creating Christmas hampers, fosters a sense of community and service. However, beyond the school, pupils are less aware of how they can act independently to challenge injustice and be agents of change.

RE is purposeful and aligned with the school's Christian vision and values. It is designed to help pupils explore worldviews and world religions. As part of this, pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a world religion. Through big questions and reflection times, teachers encourage pupils to explore the role of religious beliefs in shaping behaviour and life. Pupils find the curriculum accessible and engaging. Leaders make the most of effective professional development from the diocese. It increases the confidence of those teaching RE, ensuring that pupils are able to flourish in this subject. Governors and leaders use regular evaluations to help identify areas for improvement. These findings are used to guide professional development and planning, enhancing the curriculum's quality. As a result of all this, teachers create an environment in which pupils speak positively about their learning and enjoy sharing their work.

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

Information			
Inspection date	26 June 2024	URN	119390
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	140
Diocese	Manchester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Gemma Callaghan		
Chair	Simone Cudworth		
Inspector	Rob Dean	No.	2129