

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	
Address	Poplar Street, Heaton Mersey, SK4 3DG

School vision
<p>Our school vision of 'High Standards through a Caring Community' is theologically rooted in the second part of the greatest commandment which tells us to 'Love thy neighbour'. (Leviticus 19:18)</p> <p>St. John's Church of England Primary School is a happy, vibrant community where we 'Love Thy Neighbour'. Our school is committed to nurture and celebrate the varied talents of all our children, to enable them to achieve the best possible progress through creative learning experiences, which prepare them for life and the challenges they will meet. We will achieve this through focusing on:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Core standards, Life skills, Wider opportunities, Christian Values and Community</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theologically rooted Christian vision is at the heart of this nurturing Church school. As a result pupils and staff flourish. • Pupils act as servant leaders as they make a difference to the life of others. 'Loving thy neighbour' is the driving force as they work as agents of change, both locally and globally.' • There is an exceptional culture of care and compassion for all, which results in strong relationships at all levels. Staff feel valued and fully supported and as a result, they provide excellent and loving role models to pupils. • Inspired by the Christian vision, collective worship is invitational and valued by the school community. It encourages pupils to live out the values in their daily lives. • The rich and inspiring curriculum, driven by the Christian vision enables pupils to flourish. As a result, pupils are enabled to celebrate their individual talents
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen a shared understanding of spirituality. This is so that there are planned opportunities for spiritual development across the school curriculum. • Ensure governors develop a systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating the impact of the school vision across all areas of school. This is so they are well informed of how the school is developing as a result of being a Church School.

Inspection findings

St John's C E Primary School is a much loved part of the local community. The theologically rooted Christian vision, 'love thy neighbour' is at the heart of this nurturing Church school. The vision is well established across the school and is central in enabling individuals to flourish within its context. Rooted in Jesus' parable about the Good Samaritan, it is a driving force behind leaders' decision making and planning. Underpinned by core values, the school has established positive relationships across the school community and with the church. Strong leadership is demonstrated by the head teacher and senior leadership team. They recognise and value the school's Christian vision of 'loving thy neighbour' through their own involvement in the school. A relatively new governing board supports the development of the vision and values how it supports school development. However, Governors do not have clear systems in place to evaluate the impact of the Christian vision and distinctiveness of St. John's as a Church school.

Driven by the Christian vision, the rich and inspiring curriculum enables pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities to flourish. This is monitored and evaluated well by leaders. Effective systems ensure teachers have a range of adapted strategies to support pupils' learning styles. As a result, pupils achieve exceptionally well. Personal development is a strength of the school. Pupils display confidence about themselves and their own skills and abilities through the broad curriculum on offer. Extra-curricular opportunities are rich and varied and include music, sport and forest school. Pupils enjoy learning alongside each other and talk openly about supporting one another in their learning respective of each other's talents. The rich curriculum supports pupils to understand protective characteristics when exploring relationships in modern society. This has been realised when learning about diversity through the 'Rainbow Flag Award'. A bespoke learning behaviour strategy, developed by school staff, supports pupils' positive attitude towards their learning. There is some recognition of spiritual moments across school. However, a shared understanding of spirituality outside of worship is under developed. Themed weeks promote a broad knowledge and understanding of the world enriching the lives of the pupils. 'Eat Fit, keep fit' week supports pupils' physical and mental health and wellbeing

Inspired by the vision, collective worship is inclusive and invitational to the school community. It is carefully planned and structured to include prayer and liturgy, Bible stories, personal reflections and singing. Pupils join in enthusiastically, demonstrating a joy of being together, which supports their spiritual development. Pupils demonstrate their understanding of respect as they actively explore how they can demonstrate this in their daily lives. Lighting a candle enables pupils to feel God's presence in their lives. Both the school prayer and the Lord's Prayer are integral to collective worship and link to the school vision, encouraging pupils to flourish spiritually. Pupils describe collective worship as 'getting together in God's community'. Regular worship takes place in church, including celebrating major festivals, enhancing the creativity and variety of spiritual experiences. The vicar is actively involved with the school. She has supported the development of incidental prayer as a foundation for spiritual development. As a result, pupils write their own prayers. These are celebrated within classrooms and during worship on Fridays where families value joining 'family Friday worship', both in person and virtually.

'Loving thy neighbour', is a golden thread that epitomises relationships at St John's. It motivates leaders to recognise the value of the individual. Prioritising positive relationships is a strength of the school which extends to the care for adults, pupils and families. St. John's is a place where people are treated well. Staff and leaders work as a close

community in line with the school vision. Showing evidence of ‘loving well together,’ this is a school where there is an exceptional culture of care and compassion. Parents value the way kindness extends beyond the school doors. As a result, staff provide excellent loving role models to pupils. Pupils talk passionately about taking care of others referencing the story of the Good Samaritan as their inspiration.

Driven by the vision, pupils act as servant leaders as they make a difference to the life of others. The curriculum offers pupils many opportunities to explore the ways they can support others both locally and globally. Staff role model how best to engage in social action such as work done for Macmillan. As a result, pupils become independent agents of change, inspired to challenge injustice and make a difference. There are copious examples of pupils making a difference to the lives of others. Pupils demonstrate their understanding of making ethical choices by campaigning against the use of products containing palm oil, as a result of discovering how this is harmful to animal life in the rainforest. In addition, motivated by the independent efforts of one pupil to support the Princess Trust, others have risen to the challenge of supporting this cause too.

Religious Education (RE) is well structured and as a result staff are clear about what and how to teach in each year group. Pupils enjoy RE and understand the value it plays in helping them live their lives. Such as their study of the conversion of St Paul to Christianity. Learning focuses on a deeper understanding of a range of world faiths. As a result pupils can articulate the key beliefs and practices of the religions they have studied and make comparisons. Bespoke units enable pupils to understand the impact of RE on the world in which they live. For example exploring the development of Christianity across the world. Leaders monitor the subject for impact and access training which is shared with school staff.

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

Information			
School	St John’s C E Primary School	Inspection date	27 June 2024
URN	106105	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese/District	Manchester Diocese	Pupils on roll	196
Head teacher	Patrick Rayner		
Chair of Governors	Shahid Hussain		
Inspector	Hilary Henderson	No.	C23/24