

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Margaret's Church of England VA Primary School, Heywood	
Address	Heys Lane, Heywood, OL10 3RD
School vision	
<p>We believe that a happy child is a successful one. We desire to be a community that is committed to providing a positive, welcoming, safe and stimulating environment for children to learn and where differing needs are acknowledged, accepted, met and valued. We intend to provide our pupils with an engaging, exciting and empowering knowledge and skills led curriculum that equips them as readers, question-raisers, investigators, confident learners and compassionate leaders for today and tomorrow. Our vision is a school community where all children are loved, respected and encouraged to develop to their fullest potential.</p> <p>'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it'. Proverbs 22:6</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated leadership has deeply embedded the Christian vision. It supports the flourishing of pupils and adults within this caring school community. • Committed staff are unwavering in their nurture of pupils. As a result, pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), succeed in a loving, nurturing environment. • Collective worship is carefully planned. It thoughtfully reflects the vision and values. Wide and varied experiences enable pupils and staff to grow and thrive together. • Supportive relationships are a strength of the school. Exemplary pupil behaviour and attitudes are shaped by the vision and underlying values. • Strong relationships with the local church strengthen the foundation of this Church school. Valuable support from the church is provided for adults, pupils and families throughout their time at St Margaret's. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden opportunities for pupils to explore a wide range of issues. This is so pupils are equipped to take the lead in social action and respond to injustice. • Strengthen knowledge and understanding of a diverse range of religions and worldviews through contact with different faith communities. • Embed new initiatives designed to enhance spiritual development and wellbeing. This is so that pupils and adults engage meaningfully with experiences to further enrich and express their spirituality. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Guided by the vision, leaders at St Margaret's are resolute in their determination that everyone is valued. Pupils and staff are included and given the opportunity to succeed. The carefully selected</p>	



Bible verse underpins the commitment by adults to 'set children off on the way they should go'. This ambition is central to their daily work. Dedicated governors are regular visitors, engaging with staff and pupils. Robust monitoring and evaluation support leaders in keeping the vision central to the work of the school. Strategic decisions are made with a deep knowledge and understanding of the composition of the school. Leaders know the school context well and the vision reflects the determination to improve life chances for pupils in the area.

Insightful leadership has responded to the specific needs of the school community. Careful consideration is given to the development of each pupil. The well planned, inclusive curriculum reflects the school's vision and values. Curriculum 'concepts' run through each topic to link pupils learning with individual achievement and spiritual opportunities. A range of exciting trips linked to subjects enhance learning. For example, a trip to Manchester airport as part of the history curriculum. These wider learning experiences foster pupils' determination and ambitions. Pupils speak with joy about the visits to new places and learning new information. High aspirations for everyone result in a supportive, inclusive environment for pupils. Leaders carefully consider the sequence of learning so that new knowledge and skills are building on prior knowledge. Those with SEND, or who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, are fully supported to access the whole class learning. Pupils develop their talents and wider interests through a range of enrichment activities.

Collective worship is an integral part of the school day. It is a special time to meet together as a school community and is highly valued by pupils and staff. The well-planned programme includes a rich variety of activities, including, prayer, music, Bible stories and singing. These offer wider spiritual experiences and opportunities for spiritual flourishing. However, the ability to articulate this is underdeveloped. Pupils are confident in using the special worship boxes to ask big questions. The local vicar regularly answers these questions during the weekly worship she leads. Rich discussions within this reflective time deepens pupils' thinking about difficult theological concepts. The school motto, 'Growing spirituality together, everybody matters and anything is possible' is reinforced at the end of each worship activity. The pupils' worship group is actively involved through planning, leading and evaluation. They are proud to be involved in worship and, through their feedback, are able to contribute to the collective worship programme. Every class have reflection moments at the end of each day. Pupils speak with joy about this time. They value being able to nominate peers who have demonstrated Christian values and give examples of these in action. This activity supports building pupils' self-worth and self-esteem. It is also an example of how the school uses the values as a vehicle to demonstrate the vision in action. Pupils are regular visitors to church and the link with the local church community is exceptional. The strong partnership ensures that the church has an active part in school life. This harmonious relationship is appreciated by pupils and staff alike.

Pupils thrive in this nurturing community. Around the school there is a quiet, calm and caring atmosphere. Parents recognise the support of the school in a wide range of ways. Meeting and greeting families at the start of the day enables pupils to be ready for school. Unwavering help is given to those in need, with any concerns heard and addressed sensitively. Dedicated and supportive pastoral care is always available. Being kind and respectful underpins the relationships in this nurturing school. The words of the vision are clearly lived out daily. Pupils feel safe in school and know that they will be listened to. Consequently, behaviour is exceptional. Disagreements between peers are dealt with efficiently and resolved with dignity and respect. Staff feel valued at St Margaret's because they know leaders care about their wellbeing. They speak highly of the excellent support they receive and feel enabled by the vision and values. They work tirelessly to support the pupils and families they serve. The wellbeing of pupils and staff is valued equally by the leaders.

Pupils have a strong sense of community which prompts them to contribute and help in the area around the school. Making a difference in this way is important to them. They talk with pride about

sharing gifts with local residents at key points during the year. Pupil's champion charities in the neighbourhood, including the foodbank. Older pupils take on a variety of leadership roles within school. The expectation is that they become good role models in serving others and demonstrating the values. Work across the curriculum ensures pupils learn about global issues and historic and current inspirational people. However, opportunities for pupils to become effective agents for change beyond the school and local community are underdeveloped.

Religious education (RE) is well led and leaders ensure the subject has a high profile. The curriculum provides all pupils with opportunities to gain an understanding about a range of world religions and worldviews. Lessons are well planned, engaging and challenging. Teachers provide a safe place for pupils to explore and share their opinions. Pupils confidently articulate knowledge of the Bible and are able to respond to big questions. They speak enthusiastically about RE and are proud of their work. Pupils' exercise books reflect a range of learning activities, for example, through art. However, faith based visits and visiting faith speakers to school are not developed. St Margaret's has a strong and positive relationships with the diocese and staff benefit from the training available. As a result, they teach the curriculum with confidence. Regular monitoring of teaching and learning ensures tasks have a clear purpose and build upon prior learning. Regular assessment forms the basis of feedback to pupils. Pupils are encouraged to improve their work and this encourages them to make sound progress overall.

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

Information			
Inspection date	9 July 2024	URN	105815
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	209
Diocese	Manchester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Maxine Beresford		
Chair	Rachel Florey		
Inspector	Tina Astley	No.	2205