

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hurst Knoll St James' Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Vision

As the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke ch10) teaches us, everyone is our neighbour and that we should love and care for all. This is the philosophy that underpins our school vision and values of Hope, Trust, Justice, Forgiveness and Kindness. Through these values, we seek to be the living embodiment of the Parable of the Good Samaritan; the children are taught to think of others, think about how their words and actions have an impact on others and what they can do to make the world around them a better place.

Strengths

- Effective leadership in the school has created an inclusive learning environment for pupils.
- The school has an overarching value of love and care, both in school and for the wider community.
- Religious education (RE) is effectively led and well taught. It provides a safe environment for pupils to explore different religions.
- The Christian vision has allowed the leaders to develop a curriculum that recognises and supports the needs of its community. Aspirations are high for both pupils and staff.
- Relationships within this school community are honest and respectful. This leads to a culture of openness and trust.

Development Points

- Embed the school's shared understanding of spiritual development. This is to ensure that purposeful opportunities are planned across the curriculum for pupils to flourish.
- Develop pupils' understanding of how to make a difference in the world. This is so that they can take action to have a positive and meaningful impact more widely.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision relates to the parable of the Good Samaritan and what it teaches about being a good neighbour. At Hurst Knoll St James', this is central to the life of the school. Adults and pupils know and understand it. They articulate how they love and care for each other, and that everyone is equal. Nurturing relationships are modelled by staff to the pupils and between the pupils. As a result, pupils feel safe. Senior leaders' actions are driven by the vision, and they are proud of its impact on the school community. The five core values are embodied in the governors' shared aspirations for the school and their commitment to its work.

Everyone in this school is cherished and, as a result, lives are transformed. Adults and pupils have a deep sense of God's love as they grow and live out their deeply rooted vision. Leaders are unwaveringly driven to ensure that it is at the heart of all their decisions as they nurture members of this inclusive school. Governors are an integral part of school life. They know the impact of the vision well. This is because they have effective systems to monitor, evaluate, and reflect upon the development of the school as a Church school. This has led to bold decisions, such as providing free school trips so that all pupils are included. Pupils are nurtured and feel valued and unique. There is a deep-seated recognition that only the best is good enough for the school community. This leads to pupils and adults thriving.

Cohesive relationships exemplify the school's Christian vision. The good mental health and wellbeing of staff is a priority for leaders. As a result of the support and professional development they receive, staff are confident to take on new roles. Staff and families rightly value that the school goes above and beyond in the support that staff provide. This was demonstrated clearly when a parent spoke of how leaders had changed their life by giving exceptional help during a challenging time. Parents and carers are confident and happy to send their child to school, knowing that they are loved as part of the community. The school offers a warm and caring atmosphere, where staff are valued and appreciated. Strong and positive relationships ensure that pupils feel safe at school. They are confident to ask for help if needed. This is evident in the classroom and at social times, in the positive way in which the pupils work and play together. Consequently, the pupils are empowered to flourish. Instances of bullying are rare. This is due to effective early intervention. Staff know the pupils and families well. Issues are addressed with a deep sense of understanding of circumstances and forgiveness. Pupils have confidence that matters raised are dealt with fairly.

Collective worship is a valued part of daily school life. The Christian vision and associated values are the driving force behind the way it is planned. Pupils respond positively, and this impacts on the way they treat others. Worship provokes pupils to think deeply about how Bible teachings relate to their own lives. The pupils have three opportunities during the school day to pray, including during worship. There is also an invitation to engage in moments of quiet reflection which occur as all gather in worship. Pupils listen intently to the word of God, sing with joy, and eagerly make relevant contributions and responses. The school continues to build on close links with the local church and is supported by clergy. They visit for worship. These annual celebrations include Christmas, Easter and reflections on the Stations of the Cross. They promote better understanding of the life of Jesus and they are supported well by parents and the local community.

Leaders at Hurst Knoll St James' have developed a curriculum that supports the development of the whole child. As a result, pupils including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) flourish. The school has a growing and shared understanding of spirituality. This ensures that spiritual moments are captured when they happen. Opportunities are taken to support spiritual development through the curriculum. For example, pupils are given an opportunity to reflect on how they are feeling, who they are, and what is right and wrong. Pupils are encouraged to sit and reflect with a member of staff if they have been involved in a difficult situation. However, opportunities for spiritual development are not routinely embedded across the curriculum.



The inclusive nature of the Christian vision ensures that relationships are fostered and built on love. There is a strong culture of taking responsibility for self and others. Issues of injustice and inequality are sensitively addressed. Consequently, pupils are aware of differences and similarities among members of the community and learn to appreciate one another. Leaders have ensured that the curriculum offers opportunities to explore environmental issues. This includes learning about litter picks. Collective worship is used to highlight and inspire pupils to undertake projects beyond the school. Locally, pupils have been involved with working on an art project to recycle plastic milk tops, as well as listening to talks about county lines. Pupils also support initiatives such as 'Support the Foodbank.' However, opportunities are lacking for pupils to extend their thinking and action to make a difference as widely as they might.

Leaders place RE at the heart of learning. Effective leadership ensures that teachers are well supported so that pupils are taught and challenged in their lessons. The curriculum is broad and balanced, tailored to the needs of pupils and reflects the context of the community. The breadth of the curriculum enables pupils to develop an understanding of a range of world religions. Pupils talk enthusiastically about RE, they enjoy learning about different religions. High-quality learning is reflected in books which demonstrate the creative way the subject is taught. They are given opportunities to consider diversity, faith, and culture across a range of religions. Pupils are proud of the work they do in RE and understand its importance in helping them to respect the beliefs of others.

Information Hurst Knoll St. James' Church of England Primary School

Address	Ladbroke Road, Ashton under Lyne, OL6 8JS		
Date	16 September 2024	URN	106229
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	190
Diocese	Manchester		
Headteacher	Jonathon Hobday		
Chair of Governors	Elizabeth Daunt		
Inspector	Nadia Caserta		