

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, High Crompton

Vision

Through God's love and our Christian Values, we encourage each individual to love, respect and value God, themselves and others. We encourage and nurture everyone to flourish and grow into the unique person God made them to be, ready to go out into the world to love others.

This is rooted in Jesus' words: Love one another as Jesus loved us. (John 13 v 34-35)

Strengths

- As a result of the Christian vision, all members of the St Mary's family feel valued and equipped to participate fully in their lives at school and in the local community. The positive school environment creates a welcoming climate of understanding and acceptance where pupils can encounter 'love of god, each other and themselves'.
- Strong relationships are deeply rooted in Christian love. The nurturing provision across all aspects of school life creates an inclusive environment where all pupils and adults can flourish.
- The curriculum inspires and motivates pupils and ignites their love of learning. Access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities enrich the breadth of learning that pupils encounter. A culture which celebrates and supports individuals' gifts in, and beyond, the school.
- Worship provides calm and reflective opportunities for personal spirituality. The school's vision and shared values are embedded in collective worship. Pupils and adults alike value the time to come together in collective worship.
- Religious education (RE) is regarded as an important subject within the life of the school. Pupils develop and deepen their understanding of religion by responding to questions and creative experiences.

Development Points

- Embed the recently revised RE curriculum. This is to develop the breath of pupils' understanding of worldviews and faiths.
- To monitor the effectiveness of identified opportunities for spirituality in subject areas. This is to further develop spirituality understanding throughout the curriculum.



Inspection Findings

St Mary's is a school where love thrives. The school's vision to love God, love one another and love yourself is firmly embedded and drives actions and decision made in school. Leaders invest time and love into all aspects of school, from supporting pupils and staff to developing the curriculum. Time was recently dedicated to a whole school 'ethos day' where the school's values were explored and celebrated. This results in a highly inclusive environment at the centre of its community, where everyone is valued and able to thrive. Families often choose this school because of its strong Christian foundation, and the moral compass it provides for pupils. They support the school in achieving its aims. The school is supported by strong partnerships. Governors utilise their professional skills to ensure that school development and growth is supported and effective. Valued links to St Mary's Church provide members of the school with spiritual support and development. Leaders work closely with Manchester Diocese and other school improvement services to support staff training needs and effectively hold leaders to account.

A love of learning is the basis for the rich curriculum in school. Leaders and governors are ambitious for every pupil. They ensure that lessons are adapted to meet the needs of the learners, particularly those who are more vulnerable. In all subjects, pupils are encouraged to grapple with big questions to engage them. Although academic achievement is important at St Mary's, there is an emphasis on the growth of each individual child. Art, music and sport are promoted to allow pupils to feel they have a talent and can experience success. Support is allocated so that pupils are fully included in the life of the school including extra curricular activities. An ethos of appreciating spirituality through 'ows' 'wows' and 'nows' is embedded. Throughout the school there are opportunities to reflect spiritually and pupils value the opportunity to share their responses. There are clear and intentional opportunities for spiritual experiences across the curriculum. The wider impact of these opportunities on the spiritual development of pupils is not yet captured through formal monitoring and evaluation by subject leaders.

Time for collective worship is important to the school community, and the school vision is emphasised through the daily readings and prayers. It is a time for thinking and reflection. Pupils and adults are welcomed and invited to share in worship, as they feel comfortable. Enthusiastic singing enhances the occasion and pupils actively engage in worship, confidently sharing responses with the whole school. Staff describe how this time provides them with a moment of calm at the start of the school day. This enriches their own spirituality. School is greatly supported by the local clergy who lead worship sessions every week. They provide additional reflection circle time during the year for pupils and staff to pray or take time for themselves. Parents value the opportunity to attend worship sessions and services in church. They feel that this supports their own spiritual development.

The school vision to 'love one another' is a strength in school. It underpins the positive relationships between staff, pupils and their families. Pupils are supported to regulate their behaviour and appreciate how to disagree respectfully. A buddy system allows older pupils to help younger classes which develops a sense of care and support in school. Pupils recognise each other's challenges and are keen to support and encourage others in the classroom and in the playground. Leaders have shown patience and love in supporting a small number of individuals with challenging behaviour. This determination has ensured that pupils can remain in school and enabled them to flourish in the future. Staff feel well supported by leaders and that time is invested in their professional development as well as personal circumstances. Parents appreciate that staff have time to talk to them. They are secure in the knowledge that the school supports them as much as their pupils. In return, parents are fiercely grateful and loyal to the school.

A culture of justice and responsibility is integral to the school's vision 'to be ready to go out into the world to love others'. Opportunities are built into the curriculum for pupils to consider how they could make a difference, for instance how to protect the environment or support refugees. Pupils are eager to take up roles of responsibility in school and join the school council or ethos committee. The oversubscribed Plastic Action Group is driven by the pupils' passion to protect the environment and save waste. This has led to all stakeholders pledging to stop the use of single use water bottles, carrier bags and cutlery in school. All pupils are set monthly community challenges which impact positively on others. The skills they learn through these opportunities empower pupils outside of school to galvanise others into action. This



includes encouraging support for Feed Manchester and the Oldham foodbank, or fundraising to support a friend with brain cancer. Pupils show that they are confident that they can contribute to change and have an impact on the world.

RE is recognised as a core subject, and time and resources are allocated to adopting a new RE curriculum. Developments in RE are being effectively supported through professional development provided by the diocese. Training is then cascaded to all staff. As a result, pupils are taught by confident and skilled teachers. Monitoring by leaders in addition to the contributions of the pupil 'ethos committee' feed into development plans. Pupils enjoy the challenge of RE and the fact that their contributions and opinions are valued. They are becoming increasingly confident in discussing similarities and differences in world religions. Additional adult support alongside adapted resources enables all pupils, including the vulnerable, to actively engage in learning. Governors and leaders prioritise resourcing the need for pupils to experience a range of faiths through a range of visits to places of worship. Training and support provided for the new RE lead has resulted in the leader being confident in her judgements. Staff value her support to enable them to deliver quality learning. Work in books and assessment data show that all pupils, including the vulnerable and those with SEND, make progress.

Information

Address	Rushcroft Rd, Shaw, Oldham OL2 7PP		
Date of inspection	23 September 2024	Date of inspection	23 September 2024
Type of school	Voluntary Aided Primary	Type of school	Voluntary Aided Primary
Diocese	Manchester		
Headteacher	Pamela Hartley		
Chair of Governors	Grahame Benson		
Inspector	Helen Lever		